



'MY HERO'

Margaret's grateful hug for her rescuer



PAGE 4

GOLD RUSH

Double medal success for Jodie



PAGE 44

Landmark 1930s pub at risk of demolition

A LANDMARK pub on a gateway to Dudley which was bought for more than £1.3 million will be demolished under new plans.

Jahorina Limited which purchased the King Arthur on the corner of Birmingham New Road and Priory Road, wants to flatten the dilapidated building, which was built in 1939 by Dudley architects Webb and Gray.

The firm says it does not have a viable future as a pub and the site could be better used, possibly as a shop.

Castle and Priory ward councillor Ken Finch has backed the site being used for a new purpose saying it was currently an 'eyesore' on an important entrance to the town.

Residents are being consulted on the plans before a decision is made by Dudley Council. The developer will need to submit a further planning application for new development on the site.

Councillor Finch said: "Whatever happens, it's going to be an improvement on what is there at the moment."

The site was purchased for £1,320,000 in April last year from Wolverhampton-based Goldleaf Leisure, which was dissolved in December.

The pub closed in 2012.

Service marks war centenary

RESIDENTS can remember those who gave their lives in the First World War at a church service marking 100 years since the conflict began.

It will be held at Top Church, in Dudley, on tomorrow, Friday, at 6pm and all are welcome to attend.

Mayor of Dudley Councillor Margaret Aston will be among the civic dignitaries and Reverend Andrew Wickens will lead the service which will allow people to reflect on the huge sacrifice people made.

NEW LOOK TO TOWN CENTRE

THE major revamp of Dudley market is gaining pace with new stalls to be installed this autumn.

Also, work to reopen a main route through Dudley town centre to all traffic for the first time in 12 years will begin next month.

Work started on the town's Market Place earlier this year with the old stalls removed. It forms part of Dudley Council's £6.7 million regeneration project in the town centre.

Preparing the ground for the stalls has been taking place with the area around the market fenced off.

Bosses from Dudley Council this week revealed the new stalls would be put in place towards the end of October.

Statues

Both the landmark Earl of Dudley and Duncan Edwards statues will be put in their new positions in the spring.

Regeneration boss Councillor Judy Foster, said: "The plans for Market Place are progressing well and are really starting to take shape."

"I am sure people will begin to enjoy the benefits of all this hard work very soon."

"The new stalls are due to be put in place in October where everyone in the town centre will be able to enjoy lighter and brighter shopping."

"Our much-celebrated statues of the Earl of Dudley and Duncan Edwards will be restored and put in their new places in spring next year."

Market traders have been relocated to temporary stalls on the other side of the fountain with additional stalls in Stone Street Square at busy times.

The work has already

By Lee Watton

thrown up a number of archaeological curiosities including bottles of shoe polish dating back to the 18th century and oyster shells, revealing the favourite fast food of drinkers in the 1700s.

Dudley Council are also spending £650,000 on a scheme in King Street with work expected to begin on the new layout from August 25, which will mean no longer will only buses and taxis be able to use that road in the town centre.

The council hopes the move will improve motorists' access to the town centre and bring a boost to trade for businesses.

The route was closed by the council in 2001 following the opening of the town bypass, in a bid to encourage the use of public transport.

Transport boss Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said: "The decision made 12 years ago wasn't very popular. If it was wrong, this is about putting it right."

Meanwhile, there are also plans to bring the town's historic fountain in Market Place back to fully working order. Water will once more flow from the 19th Century fountain in High Street after the scheme was backed by councillors.

Hip hop not hip op for these grannies



The dancing grannies, alias Fizzogs Susan Hawkins, Jacky Fellows, Deb Nicholls, and Emma Rollason

HOBBLING along on walking sticks, a group of who are apparently cardigan-clad pensioners in the Black Country have become an internet sensation after a video of the group in action with their hip hop grannies routine at Stourbridge carnival went viral.

Now the four, who are also familiar faces from the Black Country Living Museum, are in talks with American

TV producers wowed by their internet hit.

A video of the fun time foursome dancing to Beyonce's Single Ladies and Psy's Gangnam Style received more than a million views worldwide.

The women behind the blue rinse wigs and walking sticks are Sue Hawkins, Deb Nicholls, Jacky Fellows and Emma Rollason from Fizzog Productions and the booty shaking group have been making plans to take their 'Ode Folk' routine over the pond.

Deb Nicholls, 42 from Wollaston, said: "We have had a lot of interest from America and we are in talks with

a screen writer in the TV industry. Nothing has been confirmed yet but we have been told our video is streaming through the network channels over there and we have been asked when we are coming over."

She added: "We would absolutely love to go over there and perform. Before talks started we sent our video to the producers on the The Ellen DeGeneres Show. To appear on that would be amazing."

Sue Hawkins, who started Fizzog Productions 14 years ago said she couldn't believe the attention the video, filmed on July 6, has received.

Boost for campaign to save theatre

CAMPAIGNERS say their bid to save Dudley Hippodrome from demolition has been 'galvanised' since plans to use the site for a visitor centre were dropped.

Proposals to build the multi-million pound 'Dudley Bug' Trilobite Centre on the site of the old 1930s Dudley Hippodrome in Castle Hill, Dudley, were scrapped this week. Instead, under new proposals, the centre will be built in the zoo grounds.

The Friends of Dudley Hippodrome group have welcomed the news, saying it shows there is no need to bulldoze the historic theatre on Castle Hill.

Friends chairman Gordon Downing said: "It will galvanise us and make others think who maybe thought it is a dead duck that instead there can be a future for the Hippodrome."

"People are already coming up with more ideas about how we can use parts of the Hippodrome for different events. We just needed them to look at the options."

The Friends of Dudley Hippodrome plan to hold a meeting on August 7 at 7.30pm at the Ex-Servicemen's Club, in Hall Street, Dudley, for people to hear the latest on the campaign to save the theatre.

■ Bug rethink — page 2

Arrests after zoo break in

THREE people have been arrested after breaking into Dudley Zoo.

The police helicopter spotted the group running through the zoo grounds in the early hours of Friday after a 999 call was received from a witness who saw them climbing over a wall at around 12.50. Twenty minutes later a 24-year-old man from Walsall, a 26-year-old man from Tipton and a 22-year-old woman from Gornal were arrested. No animals were hurt.

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Zoo revise plan for 'Dudley Bug' centre

PLANS to build a multi-million visitor centre on the site of a landmark Dudley theatre have been scrapped by officials following a rethink.

The 'Dudley Bug' Trilobite centre had been earmarked for the site of the Dudley Hippodrome at Castle Hill, Dudley.

But bosses at Dudley Zoo have revealed those proposals had been shelved after they consulted schools and other groups. Uncertainty over the future availability of the Dudley Hippodrome site also contributed to the change of heart.

Instead the Trilobite centre is to be built in the zoo grounds, close to the bear enclosure which is currently being revamped (see page 5).

It gives the Hippodrome a stay of execution after Dudley Council bosses agreed to take demolition

plans off the table while other options are explored.

Zoo spokeswoman Jill Hitchman said the new site would allow children to remain safely on site at the zoo.

"We were led to believe the Hippodrome site would become available at a time suitable to the zoo's ongoing development plans and obviously seized the opportunity

to provide a home for our much-needed education and conference centre," she said.

"However, the opening of Dudley Zoo's new entrance and car park has shifted the physical focus of the site and since our Easter launch we have invested in extensive surveys of schools and independent groups and their views are constant – they want to remain on site."

£230,000 upgrade for pedestrian crossings

FUNDING has been secured for a £230,000 safety project to upgrade five pedestrian crossings in Sedgley.

Dudley Council wants to upgrade existing pelican crossings to puffin crossings, which can detect when people are waiting at the kerbside.

Transport bossCouncillor Khurshid Ahmed said the council had been told a bid for funding for the work had been approved.

Two will now be installed in the High Street, one near Townsend Avenue and one near Bull Ring.

Other crossings to be upgraded are in Dudley Street; Dudley Road, near Arcal Street; and High Holborn, by Tipton Street.

The council had submitted a bid for £170,000 from the Government's Local Sustainable Transport Fund to help cover the cost and will also contribute £60,000 from council coffers towards the scheme.

Soldier in a mountain marathon

A SOLDIER from Dudley was among the six strong Army team that took on the challenge of a 48-mile Alpine marathon at the weekend.

Private David Billingham, aged 23, was joining comrades from the 1st Battalion the Mercian Regiment on the trek that took place on Saturday.

The arduous challenge that took around 14 hours, involved an ascent and descent of 8,530 feet to raise thousands of pounds for The Mercian Regiment Benevolent Fund. They underwent a training run in the Windermere Marathon in May but the Swiss Alpine Ultra proved far more demanding.

Major Rich Grover, who lead a team, said:"All six personnel have served at least one tour of Afghanistan, and two have also served in Iraq and Northern Ireland. We have already raised £3,000 and hope to reach our target of £5,000 with continued help from sponsors."

The rest of the team was Sgt Chris Wightman, Cpl Dipak Rai, LCpl William Kelly and Pte Tom Keenan. See www.justgiving.com/Richard-Grover4/ to give a donation.

Sensors

Councillor Ahmed, cabinet member for transportation, said: "The puffin crossings are much more efficient and safer for the public to use as they are capable of detecting if pedestrians are waiting to cross and then respond accordingly."

The puffin crossings have sensors which detect the presence of pedestrians waiting at the crossing and also as they are crossing the road.

The more traditional pelican crossings do not have this high-tech feature.

Councillor Ahmed added: "This is good news for Sedgley. We have applied for funding because this is a scheme which will really benefit people."

The project comes after a successful campaign by residents and councillors for zebra crossing in Woodseton.

New dimension at playtime



Artist Kara Carlson, from SAS Street Advertising Services, stands over the playground picture

CHILDREN have an extra reason to hop, skip and jump during break times when they return to school in September after an amazing 3D picture was unveiled on their playground.

The remarkable illusion has been painted at St Mary's Church of England Primary School in Kingswinford.

It is thought the school is now the only one in the country to have a 3D picture on its playground.

The design has a musical feel and features a piano with guitars along with music notes

that appear to hover above the ground. It was painted by Kara Carlson, from SAS Street Advertising Services.

Dave Cotterill, a teacher at nearby Kingswinford School which is closely linked to the primary school, came up with the idea.

He said: "The children love it, there is a buzz of excitement from the picture in the playground."

"This is an excellent project for both schools, which has inspired everyone and will benefit many children in the future."

Lucky man escapes cylinder explosion

A MAN had a lucky escape when a gas cylinder exploded in his kitchen seconds after he had stepped out of the room.

The blast in Gornal blew a window 14 feet into the front garden, shattered an internal door and shook neighbouring homes.

Shrapnel from the broken wooden door peppered the hallway, damaging a cupboard while a flash fire in the kitchen set fire to curtains.

The man had just left the kitchen to join his father in the living room of the terraced house in The Straits at around 8pm on Saturday night. The explosion blew open the lounge door as anxious neighbours rushed into the street to see what had happened.

Bizarrely the glass in the kitchen window blown into the garden did not break and the frame was only slightly damaged and fire fighters were able to reinstall it before leaving.

Crew Commander Carl Hill from Dudley fire station said: "The gas cylinder of a camping stove had exploded blowing out the window and destroying the internal kitchen door, which was torn off its hinges and smashed to pieces."

Factory to be car scrap yard

AN EMPTY factory in Dudley will be turned into a vehicle scrap yard after plans were approved by the council last week.

The dismantling yard at the former PAS Metals unit in Central Trading Estate, Shaw Road, in Dudley, will be able to store up to seven vehicles.

There will also be two dismantling bays and a customers' waiting area built at the new yard.

The planning application was approved by Dudley Council after no objections were received during a consultation period.

Bus attack arrest

A MAN has been arrested in connection with a sexual assault on a bus in Cradley Heath. Police have been investigating an attack on a young woman on the number 243 bus from Dudley to Merry Hill. Officers arrested a 59-year-old man from Dudley.

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Buses in a major shake-up of routes

BUS passengers are facing upheaval after changes a dozen services including routes to a hospital and Merry Hill shopping centre.

National Express West Midlands has revised services in parts of Dudley and Sandwell. Some passengers claim the changes were not adequately communicated.

The 127 service from Birmingham to Warley and Blackheath, has been extended into Dudley to replace the 205/205E.

The 205 service will not longer serve Blackheath and only links Dudley to Russells Hall Hospital and Kingswinford and Wall Heath.

The 297/297A to Merry Hill shopping centre, Brierley Hill and Russells Hall Hospital from Halesowen, Old Hill and Cradley Heath is now only running from Merry Hill to Gornal Wood via Brierley Hill, Russells Hall Hospital and Pensnett.

National Express West Midlands spokesman Jack Kelly said: "We have worked hard to ensure that residents were given notice of these changes and that they have as small an impact on existing customers as possible. We apologise for any inconvenience these changes cause."

Meerkats get own mansion

MEERKATS at Dudley Zoo are to have a home make over thanks to an anonymous £1,000 donation.

Work is underway on a meerkat mansion after a mystery donor posted a cheque to the Castle Hill zoo addressed to 'Alexander'.

Now the meerkats at the historic site will benefit from the revamp project which will include a heated timber-frame structure. The development team at the zoo are working alongside keepers to also build a viewing window so visitors can watch the meerkat mob whatever the weather.

Museum sponsor

FOUNDRY business Thomas Dudley has linked up with the nearby Black Country Living Museum to allow more than 1,000 schoolchildren to visit the attraction. From September the company will sponsor the museum's schools membership scheme.

Guest homes project hit by mines delay

PLANS to transform the site of a Victorian hospital into around 200 homes have been delayed by mine shafts and limestone workings.

Seven years ago the former Dudley Guest Hospital, Tipton Road, was taken off the hands of the NHS by the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) for a major homes development.

Wates Living Space was appointed developer for the £30 million project four years ago at site, next to the current Guest Hos-

pital and opposite the Black Country Living Museum. A total of 218 homes and community facilities including a meeting or sports hall and shop were to be built at the site.

Start on construction was expected to begin two years ago with the homes expected to be built by now but work on the scheme is yet to start.

Agency spokesman Johanne Thomas said: "The HCA are still committed to the redevelopment of Dudley Guest Hospital and we are still working with the develop-

ers Wates Construction. Unforeseen site costs, from issues such as mine shafts and limestone works amongst other things, has resulted in delays and so we are currently making some changes to the scheme to ensure it is still a viable project.

"We expect to have concluded this in the autumn when we will be in a position to announce the changes and revised timescales for the project."

Stewart Reid Business, director at Wates Living Space, said: "Our focus remains on

working closely with the HCA to ensure that this complex regeneration project is built in the most cost-effective way.

"The unforeseen issues have meant that we have had to collaboratively readdress our plans in order to reach a solution that works for all parties and will ultimately bring these new homes for sale and rent to the people of Dudley."

The main hospital closed about 10 years ago after most departments were moved to modern Russells Hall Hospital.

Lower speed limit in bid to boost safety on busy road

A BUSY dual carriageway in Quarry Bank where a man died after being hit by a lorry will have its speed limit cut to 30mph in the wake of calls to make the road safer.

Crashes, speeding traffic and the number of schools, parks and homes nearby are among the factors behind the proposal for Thorns Road.

The reduction from 40mph to 30mph will cover the whole of Thorns Road, as well as parts of Pedmore Road in Lye and Merry Hill to cover a 1.5mile stretch from Lye to Brierley Hill.

Calls

Thorns Primary School, Stevens Park, Lye Railway Station are situated along the road, which was also where 26-year-old Sartaj Aziz was hit by a lorry in August last year. He died at the scene.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for transport, said: "There have been calls from people and businesses living along the road for a long time to make it safer. We have looked at the issues and considered a reduction in speed limit is the best option."

"It is a dual carriageway, but there are lots of people crossing the road and many schools, pubs and parks along it. There was also the accident where the man was knocked down by the lorry last year. I believe it is important we encourage traffic to slow down and improve the safety for people."

By Alex Ross

Council officers carried out a speed survey which showed 85 per cent of motorists were travelling within the 40mph speed limit. The average speed was 34.5mph.

In a report officers said the average speed recorded showed a new 30mph speed limit could be 'realistically considered'.

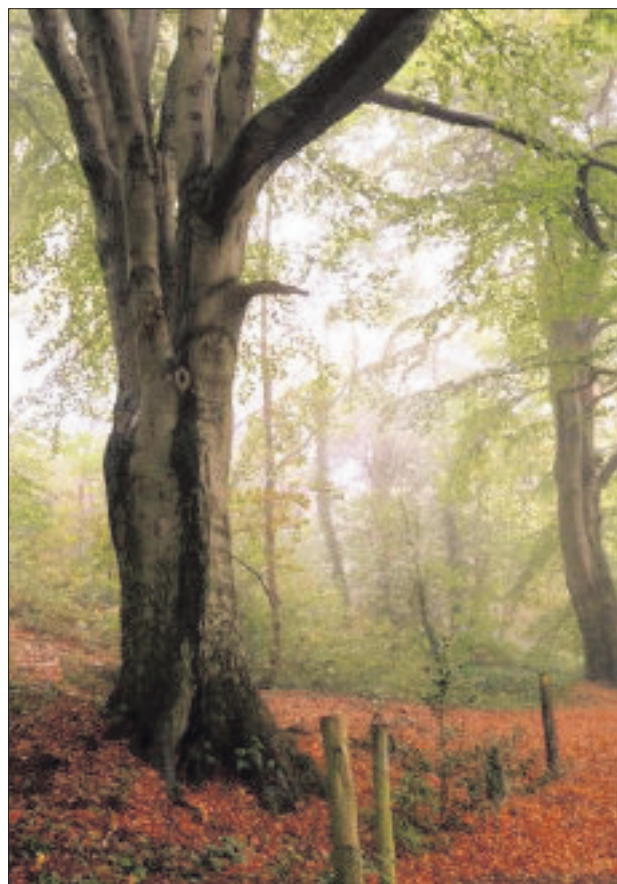
The plan has been devised alongside the council's Safer Routes to School Scheme after the council received complaints from parents about the speed of traffic on the road.

The decision, due to be signed off by highways bosses this week, has been welcomed by mother-of-two Jo Messinger.

Last month she called for improvements to the crossing junction at Thorns Road and Quarry Bank High Street after she had almost been hit by a van when crossing the road with her two sons Adam, eight, and Zach, six, at a pedestrian crossing in February.

Pistols handed in to police

ALMOST 30 guns have been surrendered in less than a week after the launch of an amnesty to rid the streets of the West Midlands of firearms. The weapons, which have included Second World War pistols as well as more than 1,000 rounds of ammunition, have been handed in at police stations across the region. The initiative until Saturday allows people to hand firearms into police stations across the West Midlands without being prosecuted.



South Staffs won a Green Flag for Baggeridge Country Park, near Sedgley

Green spaces win top awards

PARKS and nature reserves across the Black Country have been awarded the coveted Green Flag award for their beauty.

In Dudley there are seven winners including Grade-I listed The Leasowes in Halesowen, which also won the Green Heritage Accreditation; Huntingtree Park, Halesowen; Priory Park, Dudley; Silver Jubilee Park, Colesey; and Wrens Nest National Nature Reserve.

Environment boss Councillor Hilary Bills said: "Our borough is blessed with a number of beautiful green spaces and I am delighted that the hard work of our teams and members of the local community is being recognised with this prestigious status. We will continue to maintain our parks to the highest possible standards."

Sandwell was top locally with the largest number of sites earning the accolade, including Sandwell Valley Country Park, Tipton Cemetery, Victoria Park in Smethwick and Moorlands Allotments, West Bromwich. Haden Hill Park in Cradley received the Green Heritage Accreditation for the sixth year. There were none in Wolverhampton which failed to enter.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Vaccinations high across borough

DUDLEY is beating national targets for vaccinations, contributing to a sharp fall in two dangerous diseases.

Public health experts welcomed figures which show the borough is above targets for vaccinations against whooping cough and rotavirus, a common cause of vomiting and severe diarrhoea in infants.

Uptake in England revealed 71 per cent of pregnant women in Dudley had been vaccinated against whooping cough and 97 per cent of children had been vaccinated.

Hard work has paid off, says MP

DUDLEY South MP Chris Kelly has welcomed figures which show the British economy is above its pre-recession peak.

The economy grew by 0.8 per cent in the second quarter of this year, up 3.1 per cent on the same period last year. Conservatives say this means more business and more jobs. Tory MP Mr Kelly said: "Thanks to the hard work of people in Dudley and the Black Country, and across Britain, the economy is now above its pre-crisis peak."

Roll up to Best of British fun day

A MUSEUM is holding its Best of British family fun day on Saturday.

There will be Punch and Judy shows, donkey rides glassmaking demonstrations and crafts at Broadfield House Glass Museum in Kingswinford.

There will be storytelling, people in historic costumes and a falconry display at the free event from 10am to 3.30pm. Call (01384) 812745 for details.

Council planners getting Smarter

DUDLEY Council has been named a Smarter Planning Champion by the Planning Portal, the Government's online planning and building regulation resource.

It comes as 60 per cent of applicants submit planning applications online, which is said to help speed up the process by improving communication between applicants and the council.

Police meeting

RESIDENTS in Halesowen can raise issues with police at a meeting on August 16. It will run from 10am to noon at Halesowen Library in Queensway Mall with officers from Halesowen South police team.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



THE Church of England has ditched the Devil from baptisms, so can we assume that Hell is no longer with us? If so, we will need a new range of expressions. It was announced this week that the Church is planning to use positive discrimination to hand out bishops' jobs to female priests. So if you are a newly-ordained male priest, what are your chances of making it to the top, now that 'a cat in hell's chance' is redundant?

AND off, on a blissfully warm summer's evening, to the Royal Shakespeare Theatre where Stratford Coughing Society seems to be out in force. One person coughs and two or three others join in. Some are subdued "ahems" but others simply cough, hackety-hack, open-mouthed over the folks in front. This is probably nothing new. In the excellent 1998 film Shakespeare in Love, the Bard (Joseph Fiennes) rages: "You see? The consumptives plot against me. 'Will Shakespeare has a play, let us go and cough through it'."

A READER who happens to be a retired cop, complains bitterly about the lack of interest, let alone response, he got from dialling the 101 non-emergency number. This alternative to 999 is, quite literally, a cop-out. According to the Police UK website, 'non-emergency' incidents for which 101 is deemed suitable are: Your car has been stolen, your property damaged or if you suspect drug use or dealing in your neighbourhood. And if you spot fly-tipping or damage of public property, the cops don't want to know about it at all. Apparently such incidents are a matter for your local council. There is no better way to cut crime than to decriminalise criminal behaviour. And you wonder why the figures for recorded crime keep falling?

JEREMY Paxman's replacement on Newsnight is the openly gay Evan Davis. There is much speculation about how the tattooed and (allegedly) intimately pierced Mr Davis will tackle the big interviews. One commentator says his appointment will reinforce the BBC's diversity agenda and bring "a light touch." The implication is that a gay inquisitor will be gentler than Paxo because that's what gays are like, right? Consider this. Staffordshire Police, thanks to its diversity employment

policies, is proud to be known as one of Britain's most gay-friendly employers. You are more likely to encounter a gay bobby in Staffordshire than anywhere else in Britain. So is the constabulary full of "light touch" bobbies? Not exactly. A survey this week reveals that you are more likely to be Tasered by cops in Staffordshire than in any other county. Explain that.

QUIETLY, very quietly, while all eyes were on Gaza and Ukraine, Whitehall made a tiny announcement. Until now, for every year you delay drawing your state pension, its value increases by 10.4 per cent. From 2016 this will be cut to 5.8 per cent. Just like that. There are lies, damned lies and pension promises.

SO there is to be a full inquiry into the death by poisoning in 2006 of the former KGB agent Alexander Litvinenko. Any chance of an inquiry into the death of Dr David Kelly who was found dead during the Iraq war inquiry in 2003? I guess not. How strange it is that the death of a foreigner, probably murdered by his own people, gets proper attention but our own Dr Kelly, a national hero and a hugely principled man, has been denied even an inquest.

ONE of the most impressive statistics to emerge from the Ukraine airline disaster is that at the moment it happened, there were an estimated 10,000 airliners in the skies. Those Wright Brothers really started something.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Group has three months to raise £10k

CAMPAIGNERS have three months to raise £10,000 to buy an historic walled garden in Halesowen.

Halesowen Abbey Trust are poised to sign an agreement to buy contract with site owners Birmingham Metropolitan College.

The heritage group will then have just 12 weeks to raise the rest of the purchase price to complete the deal to buy the historic garden, which

dates back to 1790. The community group originally needed an additional £20,000 but after a £10,000 donation by A & J Mucklow Group Plc, the community group now have until mid October to raise the outstanding funds.

Mick Freer, acting honorary secretary of the trust, is confident it can be done. He said: "We have had some very generous individual

donations but we still need support. There is a risk because if we do not raise the remainder we will lose the deposit but I am not going to let that happen. One way or another we will raise the money."

The garden is on the Leasowes Estate and the trust plan to start restoration work immediately once they own the site. The trust is looking for local businesses who would

like to donate towards the price of the 1.85 acre sites.

Mr Freer added: "It really is a fantastic place. Buying it is just the first phase, next we will look at restoring it to its former glory."

Campaigners are holding a fund-raising concert on August 16 at Halesowen Athletics and Cycling Club. Tickets cost £10 and include a buffet. Call 07952406378.

Health bosses move to ease parking concerns

HEALTH bosses have created more parking spaces at Russells Hall Hospital in a bid to quell concerns over plans for a day clinic.

Plans are in the pipeline to move the borough's walk-in health centre from the Holly Hall clinic to the hospital. But the move has meet with concern from those worried about the impact on parking at the busy hospital.

Residents have long complained about cars clogging up residential roads near the hospital.

Now health chiefs have revealed they have reduced staff parking to ease visitor parking pressure.

Bosses also pointed out that while there was currently only nine parking spaces at the Holly Hall clinic, there were significantly more at the hospital.

Members of Dudley Council's health scrutiny committee had tabled their concerns with Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group, which is behind the plans, and the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust which runs Russells Hall Hospital.

Health bosses said: "NHS Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group and The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust are confident the existing parking provision at Russells Hall Hospital will not be significantly affected by the opening of the new Urgent Care Centre early next year.

"Significant efforts have been made by The Dudley

By Andrew Turton

Group to free up additional parking spaces at the hospital, including greatly reducing staff parking on the car park near to the maternity entrance.

"These have had a positive impact on parking availability, even at the busiest times of the day.

"The system of triaging patients that will be operated at the Urgent Care Centre aims in part to significantly reduce the number of patients attending the Emergency Department, by treating or redirecting non-urgent patients to appropriate care. Those with a minor condition will be seen by a GP or nurse. This should reduce time on site.

"We will continue to work together to ensure any parking issues that arise are addressed."

Scrutiny committee member Derrick Hemingsley said: "I still have concerns. They need to look more into overflow car parking."

Fashion store to open

FASHION retailers Simply Be and Jacamo have announced plans to open at Merry Hill shopping centre.

Around 30 jobs will be created at the dual store at the shopping centre in Brierley Hill this summer.

The Merry Hill launch is part of parent group N Brown Group PLC's plans to open seven new stores before the end of the year, including Birmingham

The 7,946 sqft store will provide a selection of men's and women's fashion.

Simply Be is a young fashion collection and Jacamo offers fashion for men.

Margaret's hug for her hero



Margaret Bright from Rainbow Street, Coseley, with her rescuer Paul Hickinbottom

A TAXI driver who carried an elderly woman to safety after a fire has been praised for his bravery — and got a thank you hug off the 82-year-old he saved.

Paul Hickinbottom smashed through a door to the apartment block home of Margaret Bright after spotting smoke in a ground floor flat. The 40-year-old braved thick smoke to get to Mrs Bright's upstairs flat before carrying her out in his arms at Rainbow Street, Coseley, just before 7pm on July 21.

Mrs Bright, who has lived in her flat for 27 years, described Mr Hickinbottom as her hero. "I did what any normal neighbour would do. It was nothing really," said the cabbie from Poole Crescent. "Paul came in and carried me out. He's my hero," said Mrs Bright.

Anthony Lewis, aged 51, of Rainbow Street, has been charged with arson and threatening behaviour and committed to appear at Wolverhampton Crown Court on October 15. He was remanded in custody.

Suspended sentence for prolific shoplifter

A SHOPLIFTER with a lengthy record of convictions has avoided an immediate jail term after stealing meat, cheese and alcohol.

Sean Fitzgerald stole meat from Co-op in Stourbridge, meat and cheese from Sainsbury's in Wordsley and four bottles of brandy from Co-op in Kingswinford over a four day period, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

He broke two bottles of wine while attempting to leave the Kingswinford store on May 17.

Mr Nicholas Burn, prosecuting, said the 39-year-old was stopped coming out of the Co-op store in Kingswinford carrying the wine. He added: "There are numerous convictions going back quite some time for many offences of dishonesty."

Fitzgerald, of Armstrong Close, Stourbridge, pleaded guilty to three counts of theft and one of destroying property in May. Mr Daniel Oscoft, mitigating, said Fitzgerald had outstanding fines and asked that no order be made for costs or compensation.

Judge Michael Dudley told him: "You have an appalling record undoubtedly because of your drug addiction." Fitzgerald was handed a six month jail term, suspended for 12 months.

Police seize machinery

SUSPECTED stolen machinery has been seized by police following two police warrants being served on homes in Hawbush.

Officers carried out the raids as part of a crackdown on thefts from commercial and residential properties. At one of homes, police found a strimmer, power digger and drill in the back garden.

PC Stuart Lewis said: "This is the first warrants we have carried out as part of a crackdown on thieves. Our investigations are continuing and more addresses will be targeted."

Five homes plan

FIVE homes will be built on a former coach park under new plan.

Capital Design Partnership has lodged an application for homes on land between Himley Road and The Spinney in Gornal Wood. It was used as a parking area for a coach firm.

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'Lights out' to honour war dead of 1914-18

A CANDLELIGHT service will take place joining national commemorations marking 100 years since the start of the First World War.

The 'Lights Out' initiative is a nationwide event on Monday where households and communities are encouraged to switch off their lights between 10pm and 11pm, leaving one solitary light or candle.

A service will be taking place at the Clock Tower, in Priory Street, Dudley opposite the town's museum and art gallery, where people are invited to light candles in a moment of reflection, hope and peace.

The aim is to light one million candles across the country to remember the service men and women who died for their country between 1914 and 1918.

People can also get involved by simply turning off the lights at their home.

The service in Dudley town centre will start at 9.50pm. Mayor of Dudley Councillor Margaret Aston said: "The 'Lights Out' event is a perfect opportunity for people to come together and reflect. The service allows people to mark the occasion and remember those who fought for us all those years ago."

Man accused of sex assaults

A FORMER care worker has appeared before magistrates accused of sexually assaulting five women.

Dauda Kamara is charged with one count of rape and seven of sexual assault on dates between January 1, 2008, and April 13, 2012.

Kamara, 45, of Charles Road, Handsworth, spoke only to confirm his personal details during a short hearing at Dudley Magistrates Court.

He was committed to Wolverhampton Crown Court for a plea and case management hearing on October 15. Magistrates granted him bail until the next hearing.

Arrest after crash

A MAN has been arrested on suspicion of car theft after a crash.

A 25-year-old from Wolverhampton was arrested by Staffordshire Police following the accident in Wodehouse Lane in Gospel End, Sedgley, in the early hours of July 14.

Former MEP is charged with expenses fraud



Ex-MEP Nikki Sinclair

A FORMER MEP has been charged with money laundering and misconduct in public office after an inquiry into her expense claims.

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) said Nikki Sinclair, who lost her seat in the European Parliament earlier this year, had been charged with the offences by West Midlands Police.

A CPS spokesman said the offences were alleged to have been committed while the 45-year-old was a serving MEP for the West Midlands between October 2009 and

July 2010. Miss Sinclair lost her seat at May's European elections after leaving Ukup and standing for the We Demand A Referendum Now party.

Court

A police spokesman said: "West Midlands Police's Economic Crime Unit has formally charged former MEP Nicole Sinclair with misconduct in public office and money laundering."

"Ms Sinclair is due to appear at

Birmingham Magistrates' Court on September 17 where she will hear claims that she made false and dishonest submissions for travelling expenses and transferred the proceeds of fraud through a bank account in her name.

"The offences are alleged to have taken place between 1 October 2009 and 31 July 2010 when Ms Sinclair was a serving Member of the European Parliament."

West Midlands Police has been working jointly with officers from the European Anti-Fraud Office."

Miss Sinclair, of Shirley, was originally arrested in February 2012 and has since been on police bail.

In a separate statement, Simon Orme, a specialist lawyer with the CPS Special Crime Division, said: "Ms Sinclair has also been charged with misconduct in a public office with regard to her actions."

Miss Sinclair said: "I strongly refute these charges and will be firmly defending myself. I am certain I shall be found innocent of these ludicrous and unfounded accusations."

More than 700 oppose proposals for waste plant

MORE than 700 people have backed a campaign against a waste recycling plant at Brierley Hill.

Clear Power has applied to the Environment Agency for a permit to operate the plant at the former Brierley Hill Steel Terminal off Moor Street.

Following the end of a month-long consultation, campaign group Say No to Waste (SNOW) say they have forwarded 707 letters of objection to the agency.

Three men are denying acid attack

THREE men have appeared in court in connection with a doorstep acid attack which left a 19-year-old woman critically ill.

Mohammed Rafiq, aged 79, of Cheshire Road, Smethwick, Steven Holmes, 25, of Washington Street, Birmingham, and Shannon Heaps, 22, of Queens Avenue, Tividale, appeared at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

They each denied a charge of wounding with intent on April 15.

Vikki Horsman suffered 'life-changing' internal injuries and burns to her face and chest after answering the door of a property in MacDonald Close, Tividale, near Dudley.

Rafiq also denied a charge of perverting the course of justice between April 14 and 18 and is accused of providing witness statements to police that contained false information.

The case last Thursday was adjourned for a case management hearing on September 4.

All three defendants were remanded in custody.

Although the Environment Agency said the plant could result in smells when plans were first lodged, Clean Power has always stated the plant will not cause an odour.

Talks

However, in a submission to the Environment Agency, members of SNOW are calling for talks to be opened with the director of public health at Dudley Council.

They claim exposure odours for people living as close as 75 feet from the plant could cause coughing or other breathing problems. They have also called for a survey to be carried out on noise levels in the area.

SNOW spokesman Timothy Lee said: "Risks to health and well-being arising from offensive odours were cited with a primary school so close to the site, as well as houses and flats only a few metres away."

The plant would process 195,000 tons of waste each year and create 30 jobs. It will generate enough electricity to power up to 10,000 homes a year. If approved, the company will still need planning permission from Dudley Council.

Zoo's Bear Ravine being restored



Apprentice Aaron Gelder and specialist surface repairer Martin Baker are pictured at the former bear enclosure

AN ICONIC animal enclosure dating back to the 1930s is being restored at Dudley Zoo.

Scaffolding has gone up around the historic Bear Ravine, one of the Castle Hill attraction's historic Tecton buildings, ahead of work getting under way on the latest phase of the £1.15million project.

Work on the Bear Ravine, which has not housed bears for around 30 years, follows completion of the zoo's Safari Shop, providing a new entrance to the zoo from the extended car park.

Work on Bear Ravine was expected to be completed in October or November and it has not been decided if animals will be moved into the enclosure or if it will be left as a public space.

Techniques

As part of the scheme, the building will be restored using traditional concrete techniques.

It will also be restored to its original colour, mainly sky blue but with some grey and terracotta elements as well.

The aim of the scheme will be to restore the structure to how it looked when first opened in the late 1930s.

As part of the work a kiosk near the enclosure is also being revamped. As layers of paint have been stripped away it has revealed an old Teddy Grays sign advertising Dudley rock.

The Tecton buildings at the zoo were created by Berthold Lubetkin's Tecton Group, and have received World Monuments Fund status, alongside such monumental icons as Machu Picchu and the Taj Mahal.

Merry Hill gets customer award

MERRY Hill shopping centre has received an award for its customer service.

The shopping destination in Brierley Hill has been awarded one of the highest accolades from the Institute of Customer ServiceMark.

Hundreds of shoppers took part in surveys and spoke to visiting assessors in the centre about their experiences at Merry Hill. Spokeswoman Kelly Reed said: "We loved hearing what our customers had to say about their visits to the centre, and we heard some really inspiring ideas."

House plan for former care home

A DERELICT former nursing home in Stourbridge will be turned into a house after plans were approved.

The nursing home on the corner of Clifton Street and Beale Street was opened in the 1980s but today it remains vacant.

A planning application to convert the building into a family home was approved by Dudley Council last week.

Council officers said use of the building as a home would result in less disturbance for nearby residents.

Dinner raised £1,100 for hospice

A CHARITY dinner organised by a Stourbridge restaurant has raised more than £1,000 for charity.

Indiluxe restaurant at Audnam in Amblecote hosted a fundraising dinner in aid of Mary Stevens Hospice and the evening raised £1,100. Diners were entertained by magicians and bhangra dancers. Owner Hamdu Mia said: "We were delighted with how the night went."

Van damaged by blaze in a skip

A VAN was damaged during a skip fire at an industrial estate in Dudley.

Fire crews were called to the blaze outside Micklewrights Structures on the Thornleigh Trading Estate just after 10pm last Wednesday night.

The fire resulted in minor damage to a white van that was parked nearby.

Car hits lamp post

A MAN escaped injury when his car hit a lamp post in Stourbridge in the early hours. Fire crews were called to the crash in South Road just before 1am last Thursday. The driver was uninjured.

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews

IT LOOKS like the end for the West Midlands' answer to Posh and Becks, with Danielle Lloyd and Jamie O'Hara having reportedly split after claims that the Wolves midfielder had been playing away - well playing at the family home actually - with a blonde he met at a nightclub.

The news will no doubt cause a bit of bewilderment among Wolves fans. Not at the fact that footballers occasionally like to dabble in a bit of extra time, which is hardly big news. But how can a single item of clothing have such a big effect on your performance? After all, he never seemed to be able to score in a Wolves shirt.

□ □ □

A BRIEF recap. Saddam Hussein refused to hand over weapons that did not actually exist, so we invaded his country, and had him sent to the gallows.

Meanwhile, Vladimir Putin supplies his supporters with a giant missile launcher which is used to shoot down a passenger jet, claiming 10 British lives. And the response? We suggest he is not a fit person to host the World Cup. The bigger they come, the harder they fall? Yeah, right.

□ □ □

JUST when you thought our politicians couldn't get any more ridiculous, it emerges Ed Miliband has been taking advice from Ali G's brother.

Simon Baron-Cohen, brother of comedian Sacha, has been tasked with sharpening up the Labour leader's image. You know, giving him a bit of gravitas, that kind of thing.

This can only be good news. Who wouldn't love to see the leader of the Opposition turning up to Prime Minister's Questions in a yellow shell suit? Or he could woo the green vote by addressing the house in one of Borat's lime-coloured manikins. Maybe draw the line at suggesting he could support Walsall's leather industry by wearing a pair of hide-bound Bruno's shorts, but who knows, it could catch on.

Respect, man. Total respect.

□ □ □

APPARENTLY, this country is now so skint that there are 300,000 people in this country who cannot afford to go bankrupt. I must say, I was a little surprised until I read it cost a whopping £700 to file a bankruptcy order. Wha-a-at? How does that work? Surely if you have £700 knocking about, you are not actually bankrupt in the first place?

□ □ □

ABOUT the debate of whether libraries should remove sex offender Rolf Harris's books and CDs from their shelves. Some say they might offend people who see them, others say they we shouldn't censor what people read or listen to. I simply say: what is the point?

If anybody fancies going down to their local library and asking for Two Little Boys from the record collection, then they are a braver man than me.



Tommy Mundon, Dolly Allen and Harry Harrison



Ken Dodd at Dudley Town Hall with Tommy in 2004



Tommy with his first ever DVD at his home in 2008

Farewell Tommy, king of the loffs

Mark Andrews takes an affectionate look back at the life of Black Country entertainer Tommy Mundon

THE irony was not lost on Tommy Mundon when he was forced to retire after being diagnosed with Parkinson's disease.

"I'm now a stand-up comedian who can't stand up for long," he said. And after a five-year battle with the illnesses, the king of Black Country comedy recently died, four months after celebrating his 80th birthday.

His act was a throwback to another age, littered with colourful anecdotes about close-knit communities and pigs in the back yard. He evoked images of the simple joys of life, of happiness in times of adversity.

Legend

Ken Dodd, a close friend of Tommy's for more than 20 years, paid tribute to the man who spent more than half a century making the Black Country laugh.

Dodd, who last saw Tommy last year, spoke of his sadness at the passing of the Black Country comedy legend. "I am extremely saddened to hear the news," he said. "He was a wonderful friend and a wonderful comedian. And he was more than a comedian, he was a humorist, he knew all the Black Country stories."

"I admired him hugely. I had known Tommy for a long time and he became a very good friend, and he was a great personality."

Friend Alan Smith, known under his stage name Aynuk, had appeared with him on stage numerous times over the past 50 years. The 76-year-old from Netherton, Dudley, recalled Tommy's



A youthful-looking Tommy seen in his on-stage outfit here in April, 1977

pride in the Black Country. "Tommy was a proper Black Countryman," he said. "He was a familiar face. He could not go anywhere without being recognised. He was an ambassador for the Black Country."

A lifelong resident of Halesowen - he was a pupil of the County Modern Boys' School, now Windsor High School - Tommy was a born showman. "I've always been the clown - right from school," he said. He recalled putting on his first show at the age of four or five when he was growing up in the town's

sued me to have a go on my own, and he wrote me a sketch, and before you knew it I was doing clubs and Rotary dinners." One thing he could not do was stick to his script.

"Right from the start I was ad-libbing a lot," he said. "I was probably 14 or 15 on my first show. It went very well though. In those days, folks would laugh at anything."

In the early 1970s he joined the Black Country Night Out show, performing with popular Black Country comics Dolly Allen and Doug Parker, poet Harry Harrison and folk singer Jon Raven.

But at this time he was better known as part of the MWM light entertainment troupe, which saw team up with Opportunity Knocks winners Tony and Keith West, and singer Linda Marsh.

Canada

By the late 70s his act was going global, with several of his tapes being sold to Black Country expats living abroad. In 1979 the Black Country Night Out show went on tour in Canada, but Tommy was not part of it due to his job as a lorry driver for Dudley Council.

"I was the only one who had a day job," he recalled. "They told me I could take a month's holiday from work, but I wouldn't get paid."

The highlight of his career came when he performed in front of a packed Symphony Hall in Birmingham a few years ago. "It holds around 2,000 people, and I remember walking out onto the stage."

"If you can get a few laughs at the beginning, it builds your confidence, and when 2,000 people started laughing it was wonderful."

Tommy continued to be in huge demand right up until the moment he was forced to end his showbusiness career in 2012. His act was rooted in a rose-tinted image of a Black Country which never existed, and the audiences couldn't get enough of it. With his passing, another link to the Black Country of old, is lost forever. We shall not see his like again.

WEEK IN POLITICS

with Daniel Wainwright

"A GOVERNMENT, which robs Peter to pay Paul can always depend on the support of Paul."

So said George Bernard Shaw. And now we're starting to see that in action with council tax benefit.

The benefit was scrapped last year because ministers said the welfare bill had doubled under Labour. Local authorities were left to their own devices in how to deal with people who had previously been getting their council tax bills paid for them.

They were given the option of either cutting the benefit, scrapping discounts for people with second homes and empty properties or plugging the gap by using their own limited funds.

But they could not cut benefits for pensioners or change the 25 per cent discount for single adult households.

Wolverhampton City Council's plan has been amended this week as it continues to grapple with £123 million of cuts and the prospect of 2,000 job losses.

Around 18,500 households with working-age adults are now set to see their council tax bills soar by 83 per cent.

That sounds enormous, but it's worth bearing in mind they weren't paying that much in the first place.

Since the changes came into effect last year a family on benefits in a Band A house was paying about £120 a year.

That's going to go up to £220.

It might not seem like much for the year, but if you're in a household that needs benefits to get by, £220 is massive.

Either way, this can only be a temporary solution. Even in cold, purely statistical terms, taxpayers will end up paying somehow, either for the benefits or through reduced council services.

The best way to cut the benefits bill is to cut the number of people who have to rely on benefits.

That means lots of private sector jobs, paid at a wage people can live off without needing support while also paying tax and filled by a workforce skilled in the trades employers want.

The UKIP problem for the Tories is not going away. And despite what UKIP would like to think about its appeal to working class voters, it is the Conservatives it is hitting the hardest, to Labour's benefit.

Take the latest polling by Tory peer Lord Ashcroft, who helped bankroll much of the campaigning in marginal seats in 2010.

His survey shows Labour are on course to regain Wolverhampton South West next year.

Yet UKIP is the biggest beneficiary in terms of the swing from other parties, taking 11 per cent more votes than in 2010 from the sample reported.

Labour has increased its support by seven per cent. But if that result moves from the poll to the ballot box, that's all it's going to need. A win's a win.

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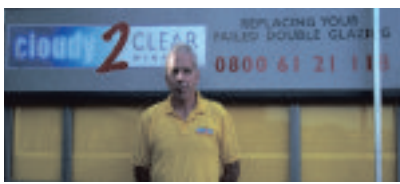
Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. "Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people

money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

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area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people



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Stripes are part of football history

I KNOW much has been said on this subject but I could rest no longer.

It was with some dismay that I viewed the new football kit of West Bromwich Albion.

I could not help feeling that not only the person who designed it but also the person who sanctioned it are flying in the face, not only of over 125 years of Albion history, but of football history in general.

Despite what some presenters at the BBC might like to think, West Bromwich Albion as members of the original Football League are part of football history along with our

rivals from Wolverhampton and Aston. We had in the 1970s a brush with a broader stripe but at least in was recognisable as blue and white stripes.

So yes, as I say to those responsible for this change, we do have a pin stripe but to all intent and purpose it is a white shirt.

So, as I have said, over 125 years of football history are cast aside at a whim.

E J JOHNSON
Smethwick

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I have to admit that in the early stages you may wish to look for a very large hammer to demolish your computer but you must be patient and it will all come right.

So, for anyone thinking about having a go with a computer, I say go for it.

Oh, and I almost forgot, I am 94 years old.

L GROUT
Dudley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

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Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

E-MAIL

Dudley.chrons@
expressandstar.co.uk

Anglian church still has lots of life in it

I FELT there was a critical, angry tone in two snippets of Peter Rhodes' column of July 24, which seemed to be ungainly swipes at churches.

Without evidence, he stated that the Church of England is 'a clapped-out organisation' that has only a few years left.

Let me give reasons for my view that the Church of England has lots of life in it. St James, at Eve Hill, serves my local area through events, such as fairs, that bring the community together.

Dropping into a parish church this week, I was impressed by the breadth of support given to individuals and groups, for example, visiting prisoners and encouraging victims (both chil-

dren and adults) of domestic violence.

An Anglican church where I was a member contributed to a successful bid for regeneration funding for a run-down area, helped the community steward the funds and pioneered a 'New Hope' project.

This helped recruit volunteers for much-needed services.

Another Anglican church I've been part of has helped me, and millions of other people worldwide, through the Alpha Course - see www.alpha.org - and I warmly commend it to Mr Rhodes and all readers.

SIMON TOWNEND
Malthouse Drive
Dudley

Black Country made in Taiwan

BEING caught up in the enthusiasm of Black Country Day, my wife and I decided to buy a flag.

We were too late, as all stocks had been sold out by last weekend.

But our trail to purchase one took us to the 'Cone' in Wordsley.

My wife purchased four. There was one each for our sons who live in The Lake District and America, one for a friend who lives in Birmingham - OK, he is not Black country but he gets flags from wherever and flies them on his caravan flag pole as the mood takes him - and one for us.

Why did these Black Country Day flags have to be 'Made in Taiwan'?

Cannot such things be made in the UK at least?

P COLE
Kingswinford

What about the scallops?

THURSDAY evening flipping channels on telly, I came across John Torode's Australia.

In the programme he visited a fish and chip shop. He ordered a meal which included potato cakes. He said they were a potato cooked in batter. Correct.

He has lived in England for 20 years. He said no one in England cooked this.

In the Midlands they're well known as scallops.

I wonder if he has ever been in a high street or corner fish shop in his life.

S BRIDGER
Wordsley

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'No' ruling on lowering voting age

West Mids Federation

SEVERAL members travelled from West Midlands to Cardiff for the National AGM in St David's Hall on June 18.

Laurence Parkes took the Roll Call with trustee Win Gair carrying the National banner. National chairman Margaret Key announced that eight new guilds had been formed during the last year.

The first topic was introduced by Dom Anderson who gave a credible argument for reducing the voting age to 16. Professor Andrew Russell voted against it. Following a debate from the floor a vote was taken and the motion was lost.

The main speaker was travel writer Matthew Collins, a one-time member of TV's 'The Travel Show'. His talk was amusing and well received. A vote of thanks was given by Jenny Rideout. The next topic concerned enforcing existing legislation for female genital mutilation (FGM). The 'for' vote was unanimous.

Matthew Hatch, a director of the Wales Carers Trust, gave a talk about the charity that exists to support unpaid carers.

Following a break for lunch, Margaret Key presented awards to the winners of the crown green bowls and the scrabble competitions. The national quiz was won by Chesterfield. Billericay won the membership shield.

The officer award was won by Ann Dunlop and Townswoman of the year was Shirley Alton of South Staffs.

Magistrate speaker does herself justice

Wednesbury TG

THE guild had a very successful day with their stalls at Wednesbury Carnival. It was wonderful to see so many people having a good time.

Local charities, to be decided, will benefit. Thanks to the Rotary Club for ensuring the smooth running of the event and to Wesley Centre staff for their assistance.

Semi-retired solicitor David M Winwood was a very interesting and informative speaker, specialising in advice on will writing and power of attorney services. He made an intricate topic very understandable.

A trip to Chester was a great success. Thanks to Joyce Bailey for organising a successful outing.

Marry Arrowsmith was delighted to receive a beautiful bouquet on the occasion of a special wedding anniversary.

The most recent speaker was Dr Patricia Martin, PhD, JP, by profession a toxicologist, but on this occasion speaking as magistrate. The talk was both very serious and humorous, with a little audience participation required.

Guild comes first in Federation quiz

Pelsall E TG

AT the June 19 meeting thanks and praise were expressed to Jennie Ferrington and Sylvia Brown for the flowers and 'little boxes' placed on the tables at the birthday dinner on the May 15 at the County Hotel, Walsall.

It was an excellent meal in an ideal room and arrangements have been made to hold the Christmas dinner at the same location.

Members were advised that Pelsall Guild had won the Federation quiz evening held on June 9.

A reminder was given regarding the craft fair on November 29 at Aldridge Community Centre.

June's speaker was Penny Wheat who spoke of her interest, aroused originally by a library book, in prisoners on Death Row in the USA. She wrote to

prisoners for many years, and later visited those on 'Death Row' and 'lifers'. It was a most interesting and poignant talk.

The postcard competition was won by Carol Manlove and the raffle by Margaret Tolley.

The July 17 speaker was Christine Gregory who gave a very interesting talk on Remembrance Day in other countries, illustrated by photographs.

The competition for a war souvenir was won by Sandra Pagett with an original Princess Mary gift box issued to all servicemen at the front at Christmas 1914. Sylvia Brown was the raffle winner.

The meeting on August 21 is a social evening with baked potatoes.

Ed sure gave a good talk

Grange 'E' TG

THE monthly meeting was held at Grange Court on July 1. A warm welcome was given to two visitors.

A strawberry cream tea for all members will be held on August 5 with an invitation also to residents of Grange Court.

Marlene O'Hanlon asked members if they were able to knit small teddies, for which she would provide the instructions, to be sent to hospitals to be given to children.

Chris Holton reported that the collection for the food bank had been overwhelming. The copper coin collection was also going well.

Speaker Ed Shore gave a talk complete with slides entitled 'Travelling through India towing a caravan'.

His talk was very amusing, interesting and enjoyable.



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It's sew colourful — quilting skills on show



Adrian Durkin, exhibitions officer, at The Art of Quilting exhibition which has opened at Dudley Museum and Art Gallery

THE art of quilting will be in the spotlight at a colourful exhibition at Dudley Museum and Art Gallery.

Hand-made quilts featuring a variety of intricate and eye catching designs will be on show at the museum in St James's Road, Dudley, until September 27. It features the work of two quilting groups, Crystal Quilters from Stourbridge and Forest Quilters from Kidderminster. Designs range from a fairytale theme to an African-inspired quilt complete with prints of zebras, gorillas and tribal art. Another, which commemorates the American Civil War, reproduces the fabrics which would have been used at the time. The exhibits show the range of patchwork and quilting techniques.

Dudley Council's cabinet member for environment and culture, Councillor Hilary Bills said: "The quality and variety of work these talented women have produced is quite remarkable. Each piece shows off the skills and imagination of its creator and no two pieces are alike. This is a really inspiring and uplifting exhibition which I'm sure will appeal to all visitors, not just those with an interest in textiles, and I wouldn't be surprised if either group gains some new members eager to develop this beautiful and skilled pastime."

The two quilting groups meet regularly, and run 'sit and sew' open sessions where people can join in. They also have regular speakers, and new members are always welcome, whether total beginners or old hands. Crystal Quilters has around 30 members and meets at Ambleside Church Hall on the third and fourth Wednesday evening of each month. The museum is open 10am to 4pm Monday to Saturday. Admission free.

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Don't be disappointed - choose Choices Windows

The home improvement market is changing and the demand for more choice in colour and suitability of PVC-U doors and windows is growing. Fashionable additions such as orangeries are increasingly desirable, as more people look for ways to improve their home.

Established since 1994, Tipton Windows & Conservatories Ltd, trading as Choices, believe that the latest trends are important, but quality products and exceptional service will always be paramount, which this family run business have proven over two decades.

Situated on Sedgley Road West in Tipton, the founder and company Managing Director Nathan Beddows started the business from scratch at the early age of 19 working out of the very same premises as he does today. He explains his passion:

"I cannot stress enough how much pride we take in every window, door, conservatory, orangery we manufacture and install."

With its roots in manufacturing, the business started more than 20 years ago, and right from the very start an emphasis has been placed on supplying only the finest and most energy-efficient products, but still remaining affordable.

"Our commitment extends beyond the manufacturing process to the design and installation of doors, windows, conservatories and other home improvement services," explains Nathan.

"For some customers we supply new windows and doors, for others we provide a complete home improvement service from building extensions and fitting kitchens, to designing and installing conservatories and more recently Orangeries," says Nathan.

One tremendously satisfied customer is Rick Houghton. Having been recommended to Choices Windows by colleagues at work he employed them to carry out extensive work at his home, he is keen to share his experiences and commend the team involved.

"Every stage of the process was excellently planned and we received nothing but the best service from start to finish. The tradesmen were outstanding and we were so impressed that we handed over our keys and went on holiday whilst the work was being carried out."

Rick and his family were absolutely thrilled and utterly delighted with the results on their return.

"We are so grateful to Nathan and his team for transforming our home into something we could only have dreamed of," remarked Rick.

Keen to keep ahead in the style stakes, Nathan is ever aware of the latest designs, materials and colours on offer, and strives to make these available to his customers.

"Many people are now opting for stylish coloured PVC-U, influenced by timeless muted 'National Trust' tones. Sage green, gun metal grey and cream are all becoming very fashionable alongside the traditional clean bright white," explains Nathan.

Fitting new PVC-U windows can be a good choice for the environment as well as for your home. Replacing dated double glazing can help save money on heating bills and reduce the carbon footprint of a residence.

"We offer A-rated energy-efficient windows and doors which can help save up to £250 from heating bills in the first year alone. They not only reflect heat back into the house, but also retain heat from solar gain," remarks Nathan.

"As a company we pride ourselves on giving old fashioned value for money and excellent service, we can undertake the majority of jobs and because we manufacture in house at our premises unlike the majority of our local competitors it enables us to have full control so we can manage your project from start to completion ensuring your experience is stress free".

"After many years in the Double glazing business we have seen a lot of competitors come and go, unfortunately leaving many customers without any warranty, after parting with their hard earned cash. Any customer who is considering having any home improvements should choose carefully and do their homework on the company they are considering, ensure if you part with money upfront it is protected by a Fensa approved deposit indemnity scheme, ask to visit previous customers but most importantly don't be fooled by the salesmen's tactics of a tempting 'sign on the night low price offer' that the double glazing industry is notorious for 'advises Nathan.

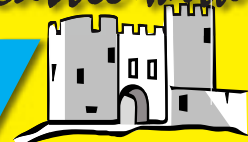
The old sayings are always the best - after a low price is long forgotten, poor quality long remains".



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Long-term economic plan will secure a better future

IT'S always great to catch up with local party members and hear their feedback.

I attended an executive committee meeting of Dudley South Conservative Association at the Swan pub in Kingswinford. A big topic of discussion was, of course, the Prime Minister's reshuffle of his Cabinet and ministers — the last before the general election next May — and I was keen to hear members' views.

We are working to a long-term economic plan that will secure a better and brighter future for Britain, and help us care for future generations. Thanks to the ongoing sacrifices and determination of the British people, our country is starting to recover after tough economic times.

But we must continue to take the difficult decisions to help us build a better Britain — one that rewards those who have put in, who contribute and who play by the rules. This way we can deliver a brighter future for our country with Britain standing tall in the world again and its people more secure at home.

Our long-term economic plan is reducing the deficit so we deal with our debts, safeguard our economy for the long term and keep mortgage rates low. We are cutting income taxes and freezing fuel duty to help hardworking people be more financially secure. We are delivering the best schools and skills for young people so the next generation can succeed in the global race. We are capping welfare and reducing immigration so our

THE WAY I SEE IT

Dudley South Conservative MP Chris Kelly takes the stand in our weekly Chronicle column which gives our local representatives the chance to air their views



'Each job is another family who can have more peace of mind about their future, including many in Dudley'

economy delivers for people who want to work hard and play by the rules.

And we're creating more jobs by backing small business and enterprise with better infrastructure and lower jobs taxes.

Last week the Office for National Statistics released figures showing there are now 1.8 million more people in work and with the security of a pay packet since the election. These strong jobs numbers are another clear sign that our long-term economic plan is working, building a stronger, healthier economy. More people have the security of work than ever before and fewer people are looking for work.

Each job is another family who can now have more peace of mind about their future, including many in Dudley and the Black Country.

I know families are still feeling the impact of Labour's Great Recession. The only way to get living standards up sustainably is to keep growing the economy and creating jobs. The biggest risk to families' economic security would be abandoning our plan.

I met with Rajinder Singh Dhalwal at Barclays Kingswinford for a briefing on how the bank is helping business and retail customers in our area. I'm pleased that banks like Barclays take the time to engage with local elected representatives

and are keen to be active participants in our community.

I was pleased to visit A Hingley (Transport), a family business in Brierley Hill. The company's vehicles can be spotted on roads right across the country with many returning to their impressive depot on the Two Woods Industrial Estate in Brierley Hill.

On one of the hottest days of the year I visited Thermofax, a heat treatment company in Netherton. It was great to meet the Bullocks, a father and son team running the business, and some of their staff. The company recently treated a 10-ton lid for a steelmaking crucible, proving the firm as one of very few in the country capable of handling a job of this magnitude.

Tom Bullock explained to me that business has been steadily improving since 2010 but over the last six months things have started to gain real momentum. In a sign of the firm's confidence they took on an additional member of staff, the first addition to the payroll for 15 years.

I was pleased to celebrate the re-opening of the Thai Banana Leaf Restaurant (formerly Thai Dusit) on Market Street, Kingswinford, with Thanawat Manorat and some of his staff.

Chris Kelly can be contacted via 01384 211 041, office@chriskelly.mp or House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA. Read the latest news and views at www.chriskelly.mp and sign-up for e-newsletters at www.recordofaction.com.

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Council help to improve homes

RESIDENTS can get help to improve, renovate or adapt their homes, thanks to a new service.

Dudley Council's home improvement team is offering a range of services. This includes advice on improvements wanted or needed, support with finding approved contractors and builders, arranging and supervising of works.

The service is also offering financial assistance including loans. Grants may also sometimes be available. Financial advice is provided if requested.

The service works only with approved builders and installers.

To request a free home visit and assessment of the work needed, or to find out more Dudley Home Improvement Service can be contacted on (01384) 817086.

Millions of items of unworn clothes are being hoarded

FAMILIES in the West Midlands are hoarding 13 million items of unworn clothing, according to new research.

Disability charity Scope said across the UK 150 million clothes were not worn while people in the county were on average sitting on three outfits that have never been worn.

Research also showed 59 per cent of those unworn clothes had been bought on impulse.

The survey shows that tops, trousers, skirts and dresses are the items of clothing most likely to still have the tags on, but that 13 per cent of

By Adam Thompson

shoppers in the region are also shelling out on more expensive designer clothes that are cast to one side.

The charity released the information as part of its annual Great Donate summer stock appeal. Sasha Phillips, stock donation manager at Scope said: "Most of us have fallen into the trap of buying clothes we'll probably never wear on impulse, or perhaps just because they're on sale.

The second mistake we make is hanging on to them.

"On average each bag of donated goods raises around £20 for our work with disabled people and their families - that means that you could help us raise millions of pounds, just by parting with a few items of your unwanted clothing, so please bring them in to your local Scope shop this summer."

The research also shows that an optimistic 20 per cent of women bought clothes with the intention of slimming into them.

Spice up your healthy eating

RESIDENTS in Dudley can get a health boost with free cooking courses and spicy recipe book.

The Asian inspired 'Your Spice Kitchen' book provides healthy recipes for popular food such from curries and to sweets and snacks. A copy of the book is offered to anyone who completes one of Dudley Council's Get Cooking courses.

Recipes contained in the books have been gathered from local community groups as well as the Tandruti Project and participants of Get Cooking courses. Copies have been given out to a number of community facilities including Age UK, Dudley MIND, Action Heart and Fit Food. See www.lets-get.co.uk or contact (01384) 816491.

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Drunken arsonist is sent to prison for ten years

A DANGEROUS drifter who launched a terrifying arson campaign in Wall Heath is starting a 10 year jail sentence.

Simon Glazzard torched four cars and the outbuilding of a derelict pub in less than a fortnight causing over £30,000 damage and putting lives in jeopardy.

One of the vehicles was parked two feet from the house where a 70-year-old woman and her severely disabled husband were sleeping, Miss Madhu Rai, prosecuting, told Wolverhampton Crown Court.

Three of the other late night fires sparked by the 36-year-old could have killed or seriously injured people because they were so close to homes.

Drinking

The first blaze swept the derelict Albion Inn at Wall Heath on August 29 and the flames could have spread to a house and gas cannister if the wind had changed direction, said Miss Rai.

Glazzard had been drinking heavily before the incident and was arrested close to the scene.

He was released on police bail pending further inquiries but then set light to four cars — a BMW, VW Golf, Corsa and Nova — in Wolverhampton Road, Beachcroft Road and Holbeck Croft, just days later on September 9.

Glazzard had been jailed for four years in 2002 after starting a fire that caused £310,000 damage to the Netto store in Dudley High Street, Dudley.

He was an alcoholic who had been sleeping in a tent in the area and started the fires with his cigarette lighter. He walked away when they flared up but remained in the area and was recognised by firefighters. His mother said he had a fascination with fire.



Arsonist Simon Glazzard, who has a dangerous fascination with fire, is back in jail

Mr Simon Hanns, defending, said: "He is both a troubled and troubling man. Since the death of his father his ambition seems to have been to drink as much as possible."

Glazzard was found guilty by a jury of arson while reckless as to whether life was endangered. He also admit-

ted two similar offences and two further charges of arson and was sent to prison for 10 years with an extended five year licence on release.

Judge Michael Dudley told him: "You pose a significant risk of causing serious harm to members of the public in the future."

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Man, 90, rescued after bedroom fall

A 92-YEAR-OLD man was rescued by fire-fighters after falling from his chair behind a bedroom door.

Emergency services were alerted by the man's niece who was unable to get into the room to help him.

Crews were called to the property in Eaton Crescent, Gornal Wood, at around 2pm last Wednesday and firefighters used a ladder to get into the room via an upstairs window.

The man was checked by paramedics and taken to Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital.

A spokesman for West Midlands Fire Service said: "He had fell from his chair. He was in front of the bedroom door so she could not open it."

"The man was talking to her but there was no way of accessing the room."

"Crews used a ladder to access the room and the man was checked by paramedics before he was moved."

Park ranger will plan activities and events



New heritage park ranger Deborah Merrick, aged 28

A HERITAGE ranger has been appointed as part of a £2.6 million restoration project at a landmark park.

Dudley Council has secured Heritage Lottery funding to carry out work at Mary Stevens Park in Stourbridge.

They have recruited 28-year-old Deborah Merrick to organise a programme of activities and events at the park over the next three years.

She will be based at the park full time, in the restoration office in the tea gardens, and is working closely with The Friends of Mary Stevens Park. Her previous post was at Worcester City Council as a community engagement officer in park.

She said: "I am originally from Stourbridge so Mary Stevens Park is an important part of my own history and I know just how much it means to the thousands of people who visit it every year. This new role is full of exciting opportunities to gather information about the park's history as well as engaging the local community."

The project will include the restoration of gates, railings, bandstand and pool, war memorial and a new café.

Four new classrooms for primary school

FOUR extra classrooms will be created at a school after the scheme was given a green-light by planners.

Three single-storey developments will be built at Gigmill Primary School, Stourbridge, to house the new rooms. A staff room will also be created at the site on The Broadway.

Dudley Council's development control committee approved the scheme at a recent meeting. Eleven letters of objection were received from residents concerned the scheme would lead to a rise in traffic on minor roads.

But committee chairman Councillor Qadar Zada said the authority would work with the school on a travel plan. "This application was an excellent opportunity for improvement at the school," he said. "In terms of the traffic we will do everything we can to make the lives of people living nearby easier."

Officers recommended the plans be approved subject to conditions.

Council criticised over zero hours contracts for workers

DUDLEY Council has come under fire for employing nearly 200 workers on controversial 'zero hours' contracts.

But the authority says it employs a small number of staff on contracts where they work 'as and when required'.

Such staff include registration officers who can cover seasonal increase in the number of weddings.

But there has been criticism that staff given the contracts do not know if they have work from one week to the next.

UKIP claims the arrangements are 'hypocritical' because the council is controlled by Labour, which has been a vocal critic of such contracts.

The council has confirmed that, excluding

schools, 192 employees currently have zero hour contracts out of more than 6,860 workers.

It revealed the details to Upper Gornal and Woodsetton councillor Dean Perks. He and West Midlands MEP and Sedgley councillor Bill Etheridge said for a Labour-run authority, whose national party is to call for the 'living wage,' the use of zero hours contracts was 'hypocritical in the extreme'.

Scandalous

Councillor Perks said: "The hypocrisy of Labour is scandalous. Labour is a two-faced beast as it nationally states a commitment to bringing in the living wage then, at a grassroots level, Labour-run Dudley Council employs almost 200 staff on zero hour contracts."

"In Westminster the Labour Party claims to represent the working class then in Dudley Council House it employs people under employment conditions such as these."

Dudley Council's leader Councillor David Sparks said: "The council employs many thousands of workers and there are fewer than 200 on zero hours contracts."

"Our policy is to keep zero hours contracts to an absolute minimum."

"We consult with the trade unions and only use these arrangements when there is no alternative."

"Yet again, UKIP has opened its mouth before putting its brain in gear."

Organisations across the West Midlands have used zero hour contracts.

Information is just a click away

DUDLEY residents can now get up to the minute information about local services thanks to an online service.

The 'Find My Local' link on the Dudley Council website provides information on schools, councillors, bin collections public transport, recycling and other key information.

People simply enter their postcode and select their address, to get the relevant information for their part of the borough.

The link is part of the council's plan to share useful information and help communities.

Councillor Stuart Turner, cabinet member responsible for ICT, said: "This useful web facility is a great way for people to find out all they need to know about the services provided for them at the click of a button."

See the www.dudley.gov.uk website.

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Luxury apartments to revive The Waterfront

A DESERTED office block will be transformed into 181 luxury apartments under multi-million pound plans.

The Landmark, formerly Point North, at the Waterfront canal-side complex in Brierley Hill had laid vacant for five years but in under a year it could have up to 300 people living there.

Developer Seven Capital has revealed plans for a seven-storey office block consisting of 136 one-bed flats, 37 two-beds and eight studios including six luxury rooftop penthouse apartments.

Investors

The total resale value of the properties will be more than £20 million, with prices starting at £83,000 for a one-bedroom apartment. Already 37 properties have been snapped up by investors.

Managing director Phil Carlin said he was excited by the prospect and hoped the work would 'provide the building with a new lease of life'.

Work on the transformation will begin this month with targeted completion of the entire project by August next year.

Mr Carlin said the firm was excited about the project: "Our plan is turn the former office block into the premier residential development of the Black Country."

"We had been looking at the site for some time, and when the opportunity arose we went for it."

"The building is perfect for residential apartments, with many affording features such as balconies with wide views over the area."

He added: "The setting is fantastic too. You have a canal passing by with shops nearby and great transport links."



Phil Carlin at the development site

"I'm sure it will provide a great home for many people wanting to be in the area."

Seven Capital purchased the office block, formerly used by insurance firm Egg, not long after West Bromwich Building Society pulled out of a project to take over the 141,000 sq ft site last year.

The developers have planning permission from Dudley Council.

Mr Carlin added: "It's a fantastic opportunity for anyone because as a new build, these apartments would be going for a lot more. As the building



Artist's impression of the new apartments

is up already and we have managed to get the place at a good price, we are able to sell at an affordable price while not sacrificing the high quality we'll provide."

"This is an exciting time. I look forward to standing outside the front a year from now and welcoming people into the building."

"It will change the scene down here and hopefully lead to more businesses coming to the area."

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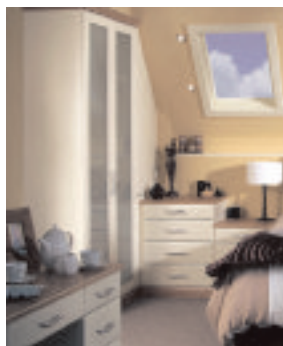
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Another cryptic graffiti message scrawled on a wall relating to the murder



The infamous wych elm showing where the body was found



Thomas Willetts, who raised the alarm, pictured talking with a neighbour 10 years later



Gestapo agent Josef Jakobs was shot by a firing squad



Steve Punt searched through archives at the Express & Star

Investigating Bella down the Wych Elm

IT WAS late April in 1943, the sun was setting behind the Clent Hills and four teenage boys were foraging around Lord Cobham's estate on a poaching expedition in Hagley Woods.

One of them clambered up a tree, looking for a bird's nest, but what he found would haunt him for the rest of his days. The tree, known as the 'wych elm' due to its sinister appearance, was hollow. As 15-year-old Bob Farmer glanced down, the empty eye sockets of a skull glared back.

Fearful that police might have asked awkward questions about what he was doing up the tree in the first place, after a quick examination of the gruesome find, Bob put the skull back. He and friends Bob Hart, Tom Willetts and Fred Payne, returned to their homes in Wollescote, hoping that would be the end of the matter. Tom, the youngest, found the secret too hard to keep and told his parents.

MEMORY LANE

By Mark Andrews

Police found the skeleton of a young woman inside the hollowed-out tree. Across the fields they found her severed hand.

Graffiti bearing the message 'who put Bella down the Wych Elm' began appearing on walls in the area. But the mystery of who Bella was — let alone who was responsible for her death — has continued to confound both police and amateur sleuths for decades.

It is a riddle which brought comedian Steve Punt to the Express & Star head office in Wolverhampton, as he launched his own investigation into one of Worcestershire's most infamous unsolved crimes for his BBC Radio 4 series Punt PI.

For many years the most popular theory was that 'Bella' had been murdered in some kind of black magic ritual. Then a theory involving Nazi spies gained weight when MI5 published wartime

files, which detail the interrogation of Czech-born Gestapo agent Josef Jakobs who was arrested by the Home Guard after parachuting into Cambridgeshire in January 1941. He was found to have been carrying a photograph of the German cabaret singer and movie star Clara Bauerle, who he said was his lover. He told his interrogators that Bauerle had been recruited as a secret agent but claimed she had yet to parachute into England.

Bauerle would have been 35 and had spent two years working music halls of the West Midlands during the late 1930s. She was said to have spoken English with a Midland accent. It hardly takes a great leap of imagination from Clara Bauerle to Clara Bella. Even more intriguingly, she apparently disappeared without trace in 1941. Jakobs was shot by firing squad on August 15, 1941, the last man to be executed at the Tower of London.

The Punt PI programme on Bella in the Wych Elm will be broadcast on BBC Radio 4 at 10.30am on Saturday.



Singer and film star Clara Bauerle — was she Bella in the Wych Elm?

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Force win praise for huge savings

WEST Midlands Police is among five forces singled out for praise for the way it has handled massive cuts in Government subsidies.

It has been rated 'out-standing' by national police watchdogs after making almost £146 million in savings while continuing to cut crime and working well with communities.

A report published by the HM Inspectorate of Constabulary concluded the force is on track to achieve the savings demanded by the Government by 2015. Only four other forces in the country are said to have made similar progress in the report that also applauds West Midlands Police's link up with private company Accenture intended to find £121m savings in five years.

Chief Constable Chris Sims said: "We've worked hard to identify and implement savings whilst at the same time protecting front line crime-fighting capacity, maintaining police visibility in our communities and reducing crime rates."

Young movers and shakers are urged to join Disney's Change4Life

A LIVELY new scheme has been launched to ensure youngsters don't spend their summer on the sofa — and is being backed by one of the world's best known entertainment brands.

Change4Life with Disney is launching a the campaign to get youngsters active during the school holidays and is including activities in the Black Country. The '10 Minute Shake Up' project aims to get children active this summer through short bursts of activity.

The scheme is a joint project between Public Health England and Disney, which encourages children to take up exercise in 10-minute bursts in a bid to tackle the rising problem of obesity.

Recent figures revealed that four in five children nationally do not achieve the recommended 60 minutes of exercise per day and 40 per cent exercise for less than 30 minutes per day.

In Dudley, where the project is taking place, 32 per cent of children are active for at least an hour five or more days a week.

Encourage

To encourage children to do more exercise the campaign aims to break it down into 10 minute bursts of fun.

Councillor Rachel Harris, cabinet member responsible for health at Dudley Council, said: "Summer is a great time for us all to get active and out and about, especially

By Katy-Rose Meaney

with the kids and the grandkids, during the school holidays.

"The good news is there's lots going on in the borough to keep children active and entertained, from free local events to discounted sports club sessions.

"The 10 Minute Shake Up campaign is a great way to encourage children to do more exercise and, together with our local events, should set them on the way to their recommended 60 minutes exercise a day."

Those who sign up to the campaign will receive a free '10 Minute Shake Up' pack containing a stopwatch, wall chart and activity cards as well as reward stickers and a host of Disney inspired fun ideas for short bursts of 10 minute activity.

For more information on what's going on locally visit www.lets-get.com/activezone

'Good' school is getting better



Head Jill Bennett celebrates with pupils at Priory Primary

IT'S celebration time at a once failing school which is on course to come top of the class. Just two years ago Priory Primary School, in Dudley, was plunged into special measures but Ofsted inspectors have given the school a glowing report after a recent visit — and now rate the school as 'good'.

Teachers and pupils have been celebrating after the rapid improvement was praised by inspectors, who say the strong recovery means the school is 'on track to be outstanding'.

Headteacher Jill Bennett says she is delighted with the turnaround and the progress made in such a short time. An inspector said one pupil told them: "This is a good school and we want to prove it."

First World War dress at museum

A FANCY dress competition is on offer to youngsters for the launch of a new First World War exhibition.

It will be unveiled at Dudley Museum and Art Gallery on Monday when children are invited to come along in costumes from the period. Those in the best costume could win a gift voucher to spend in the museum shop.

Soldier

They be dressed as 1914 school children, or as a 1914 soldier, nurse, munitions or farm worker.

The new exhibition features a mock High Street with shop fronts, showing life as it was 100 years ago from the home front to the trenches.

There will be activities including handling sessions of actual and reproduction artefacts and the chance to take part in a broomstick 'rifle' drill. Admission is free.

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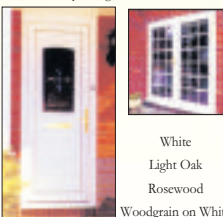
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Sam and Ed find global success

by Leon Burakowski

LONDON soul singer Sam Smith is one of the great musical success stories of the year with his debut album topping charts on both sides of the Atlantic.

Bringing in a heap of contemporary and retro soul influences, from skittering drum 'n' bass to a cool 80s club classic sound and Aaron Neville-style old school soul warbling, the banker's son with the impressive vocal range is set to join Adele and Ed Sheeran (more on him later) as a major British export.

In *The Lonely Hour* (Capitol Records) is produced within an inch of its life with lots of hooks and gimmicks, particularly on Life Support, Money On My Mind and La La La, the song that introduced him last year when Naughty Boy's guest vocalist.

Smith's Glastonbury set suggests he can deliver live and he will have a full house lapping up his slick pop-R&B when in concert at Birmingham's O2 Academy venue on October 27.

The other British singer-songwriter bound for world domination is Ed Sheeran with second album *X* (Warner Music). His chief lyrical interests remain sex and drugs and rock 'n' roll on a bunch of bland songs that don't have anything interesting to say. Only with Sing, the album's first hit, does he attempt something different, in a Justin Timberlake style, and that works well. It is debatable how much of that is down to Sheeran or ace producer and Sing's co-writer Pharrell Williams.

Sheeran is in concert at Birmingham's LG Arena on October 19 and 20. He and Sam Smith are among the acts playing the V Festival at Weston Park.

Marc Almond has realised a dream by working with Bowie and Bolan pro-



Not lonely now — Sam Smith has had transatlantic success with his debut



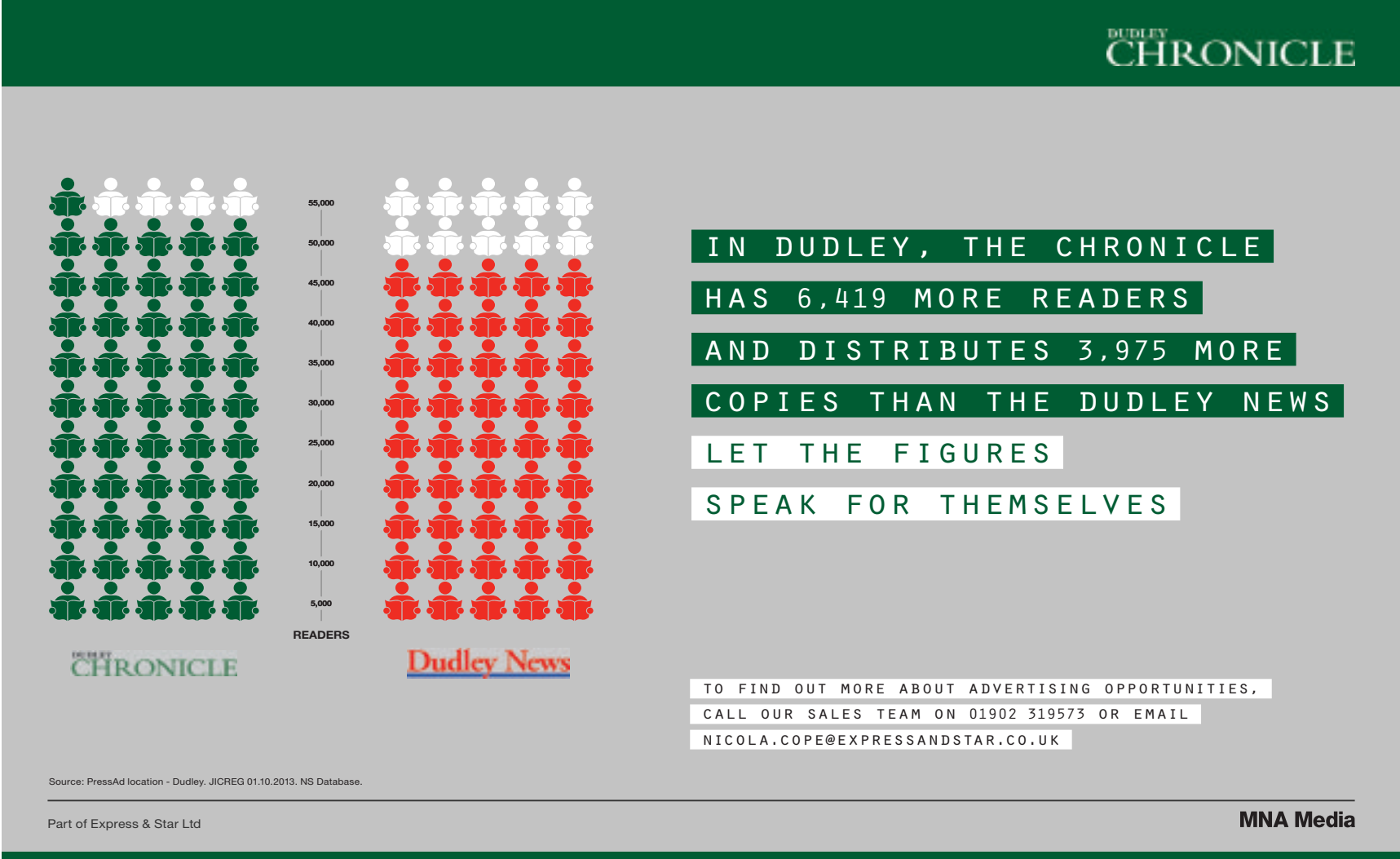
X-tra special but the title of Ed Sheeran's successor to Plus is Multiply

ducer Tony Visconti on extended EP (it's padded out with remixes) *Dancing Marquis* (Cherry Red) but it's the collaborations with Pulp's Jarvis Cocker (Worship Me Now) and Carl Barat of The Libertines (Love Is Not On Trial) that impress. Dedicated Almond fans and admirers of Brechtian drama may also appreciate *Ten Plagues* (Cherry Red). It's a double package pairing a studio recording of the song cycle written by playwright Mark Ravenhill about London's Great Plague with a DVD of Almond performing it at the East End's atmospheric Wilton's Music Hall.

Whilst modern soul singers like Sam Smith are finding success, some old timers are still doing their thing, such as Detroit's Willie Jones on his belated solo debut *Fire In My Soul* (Shout!).

Formerly one of The Royal Jokers, he has a bluesy soul voice and is joined by guests Betty LaVette, guitar legend Steve Cropper and Black Francis from The Pixies. *Fire In My Soul* chugs along nicely but never burns bright.

The classic 1960s and 70s soul hits from Detroit's Motown label still burn bright and, now they don't get so much radio play, there is a generation to discover songs that make you want to go Dancing In The Street. *The Nation's Favourite Motown Songs* (Universal), released to accompany a Saturday night TV show (you may still catch it on ITV Player) has 40 chartbusters from such as Smokey Robinson, The Supremes, Stevie Wonder, Jackson 5 and, ultimate favourite, Marvin Gaye's I Heard It Through The Grapevine.



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Poppies star behind music for film epic



Pop Will Eat Itself during their glory days with Clint second from left



Russell Crowe as Noah in the Biblical epic now on DVD

HE is a Black Country lad done good but trips to Molineux and a pint of Bathams are few and far between nowadays for Clint Mansell.

Instead the former Pop Will Eat Itself frontman is in demand from Hollywood film directors to work on soundtracks for their latest big budget epic.

It was back in the late 1980s and early 1990s that he first found fame though.

Once known for sporting flowing long locks, his band helped put Stourbridge on the music map. They were part of a popular music scene alongside other bands like The Wonder Stuff and Ned's Atomic Dustbin.

But now Clint has swapped the UK to LA and has forged a new career as a sought after composer.

His long-standing partnership with director Darren Aronofsky saw the pair work on modern classics such as Requiem for a Dream, The Wrestler and Black Swan. The latter starred Natalie Portman, who won best actress at the Oscars for her role in the film which revolves around Tchaikovsky's Swan Lake. It also scooped Clint a nomination at the Grammy's in 2012 for best score soundtrack.

Some of his music from the film Requiem for a Dream is also used on the X factor. The piece called Lux Aeterna is what the judges walk out on stage to.

Their latest collaboration, the biblical epic Noah, featuring awarding winning actors Russell

ANDREW TURTON talks to a former pop star turned Hollywood film composer from Pedmore

Crowe and Anthony Hopkins, has topped the US box office. Clint's score helps tell one of the world's best known stories as the movie has just hit the UK's stores on DVD and Blu-Ray.

You would think his life was all glamorous parties rubbing shoulders with Hollywood stars but the 51-year-old composer, who grew up in Pedmore, shuns the limelight to allow his work to speak for itself.

Fortunate

"I'm very fortunate in my life, I've never had any real jobs, I've always been a musician. Being able to write and record your own music with great musicians is a dream come true," he said.

"I don't really do any of the awards stuff. I'm already working on the next thing."

He did travel out to Iceland to visit the set on Noah but admitted he felt 'in the way' and left the cast to it while he enjoyed the trip.

"It did help me get me into the mindset of the film but I think it is as much about trying to immerse yourself in the subject matter and there is so much out there that you can find for yourself as inspiration," he said.

"I didn't really think of it in terms of a biblical story, instead it was more of an end of the world event so I just approached it as a post apocalyptic dystopia story and if you take it literally, God, or the

creator as it is called in the film, is ending the world, which is a pretty scary thought."

"The great difference with this film was the pressure. Every film is going to be different. It's a learning curve all the time."

Clint's said: "I first heard David Bowie when I was about seven or eight and I was just blown away by that. That is what I wanted to do. Then there was Ramones, Sex Pistols and The Clash."

The former King Edward VI College student was a member of the group which eventually became known as Pop Will Eat Itself.

Known to fans as The Poppies, the band scored a string of top 40 singles and four top 40 albums and were part of the 'grebo' scene.

"We just stuck at it. We went on Top of the Pops, toured the world and basically spent our 20s having the best laugh and the best time. I wouldn't change that for the world," said Clint whose family, including his parents Marilyn and Donald, still live in the town.

He records many of the soundtracks in London which affords him time to travel back to the Midlands for some home comforts.

"I love coming back to Stourbridge. The beer's the best. Can't beat a Bathams," he said.

When the Poppies disbanded in 1996, Clint moved out to America where he lived in New York and New Orleans and met Aronofsky.

He was living in LA by 2001 when



Movie soundtrack composer Clint Mansell formerly of Pop Will Eat Itself

he started getting more film work but said: "It took me about three years to find my feet. But the thing that helped me settle was they started showing the Premier League over here. Then Wolves got promoted that year and that gave me a real taste of home in LA and it was really important to me."

Concert

Clint admits he does not go to many gigs any more but he says he is listening to more music than ever before including the new incarnation of Pop Will Eat Itself, who are playing their first home town concert in almost 30 years tomorrow night (Friday)

The group now features one

original member in drummer/vocalist Graham Crabb, is to play at the River Rooms

The original group, which released five albums, briefly reformed in 2005. The latest incarnation started in 2011 and released album New Noise Designed by a Sadist. New members included vocalist Mary Byker, formerly with Gaye Pigfaced; guitarist Tim Muddiman, who has played with Gary Numan; drummer Jason Bowld, once with Killing Joke, and bass player Davey Bennett. Tickets are £17. The band then tour Australia and New Zealand. Meanwhile, Clint is planning some solo shows later this year in London and Manchester.

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Oh Boy, George back in the club

BOY George will be reviving Karma Chameleon when he gets back together with his 1980s chart-toppers Culture Club to headline Birmingham's NIA with a festive gig alongside fellow 80s star Alison Moyet.

Culture Club were one of the biggest bands of their era, selling in excess of 100 million singles and over 50 million albums.

The original line-up has reformed and will play the NIA on December 12 – the first time they've played live together in over 15 years.

Former Yazoo singer Moyet has been solo since 1984's *Alf* and in recent years has successfully relaunched her career, winning acclaim for her latest album *The Minutes*.

All that jazz ahead at Arena theatre

A WOLVERHAMPTON theatre will be hosting its second jazz season this autumn.

The season begins at the Arena in Wulfruna Street on October 11, with June Tabor, who is more famous as a folk singer, joining forces with the Quercus trio and Iain Ballamy for a concert.

Then on November 15 the theatre will be hosting Anglo-Scandinavian trio Phronesis, who will be performing from their highly rated album *Life to Everything*.

Indo-jazz clarinettist Arun Ghosh comes to the Arena with his six-piece band on December 4 to perform his South Asian Suite.

Very tasty selection of pop star names at the V Festival

A quality line-up at Glee Club

A BIRMINGHAM venue that brings the best singer/songwriters to the region has unveiled its autumn programme.

The Glee Club, in The Arcadian Centre in Chinatown, will feature the best of acoustic and electric roots music.

The programme starts on September 15 with a show from Welsh wonder and former Super Furry Animals frontman Gruff Rhys, who will play songs from his new American Interior album. He will be followed on September 17 by Ani DiFranco, who is making a welcome return to the venue following a majestic show in 2011.

Other highlights include a show on September 23 by Irish singer/songwriter Sharon Corr, touring her second solo album *The Same Sun*, Mary Gauthier on October 1, Nerina Pallot on October 29 and founding Byrds member Roger McGuinn on November 2.



Glee date – Sharon Corr

Photograph by Barry McCall

THE Midlands' biggest music festival, V, is scheduled for 16 and 17 August at Weston Park, on the Staffordshire and Shropshire border.

It will feature a galaxy of star names across four stages, as well as big names in comedy, such as Alan Carr, Adam Hills, Paul Chowdhry and Rob Beckett.

The Saturday night line-up at Weston Park will feature Main Stage acts The Killers from Las Vegas, Paolo Nutini who is back in the big time with his hit album *Caustic Love*, and controversial songstress Lily Allen.

Completing the line up on the Main Stage will be Rudimental, Train, Newton Faulkner, M People and 80s disco sensations Chic featuring Nile Rogers.

The MTV Stage will include Axwell A Ingrosso, Tinie Tempah, Jason Derulo, Rizzle Kicks, Katy B, Childish Gambino, Aloe Blacc and Sheppard.

One of that venue's biggest crowds is bound to be for new UK soul star Sam Smith whilst Midlands rock fans of a certain vintage will be flocking to see Miles Hunt lead a revived *The Wonder Stuff*.

Futures

The Arena Stage will include a DJ set from Chase and Status as well as performances from Sub Focus, Rita Ora, Ceelo Green, Paul Heaton and Jacqui Abbott, Nina Nesbitt, Ella Eyre, Jess Blynn and Neon Jungle.

Meanwhile, the Futures Stage will welcome the best of new talents, as well as returning favourites, including Embrace, Howling Bells, Vance Joy, The Magic Numbers, Bewley's Becky Hill, Chloe Howl and James Bay.

The festival on the Sunday will feature US superstar headliner Justin Timberlake being joined by Ed Sheeran, Example, Bastille, Kaiser Chiefs, Tom Odell, Kodaline and punk veterans The Stranglers.

The MTV Stage will be headlined by the mighty Elbow and could eclipse the other stages with a line-up that includes festival veterans the Manic Street Preachers, a Blondie re-energised by success at Glastonbury, Miles Kane, The Wailers, John New-



Justin Timberlake will headline V on Sunday man, Pixie Lott, rising star George Ezra, Starsailor and The Rifles.

The Arena Stage line-up comprises Alesso, Above and Beyond, the highly-rated Janelle Monae, 80s veterans The Human League, ballroom dancing pop star Sophie Ellis-Bextor, James Arthur, Foxes, Kiesza, All Saints and Fuse ODG.

Sunday's Futures Stage line-up will feature Alex Clare, Birdy, Hoodie Allen, The Strypes, Icona Pop, Josh Record, Neon Trees, To Kill a King and Dan Croll.

Day tickets are £89 with £8.90 booking fee, weekend tickets with no camping start at £165 (plus £10.15), with camping £189 (plus £10.95). See www.vfestival.com

No substitute for rock legends

ROCK legends The Who celebrate 50 years at Birmingham's NIA on December 7 and do not plan to tour again after 2015.

The band, featuring surviving original members singer Roger Daltrey and guitarist Pete Townsend, will return to the city for a celebration of a career during which they have sold more than 100 million albums.

Formed during the London Mod boom of 1964 with a lineup including bassist John Entwistle and drummer Keith Moon, they achieved success with hits like *My Generation*, *I Can't Explain* and *Substitute*.

Their albums *Tommy*, *Live At Leeds* and 1973's *Quadrophenia* elevated the band to iconic status.

Scottish comedy invasion at MAC

COMEDIAN Danny Bhoy will be appearing in Birmingham as part of his UK tour. The Scottish-Indian funnyman, will be coming to Edgbaston on September 26 – just over a week after the Scottish vote on independence. The comic will bring his *Please Unlick This Box* tour to Midland Arts Centre in Cannon Hill Park.

Other comics coming to the MAC include fellow Scots Hardeep Singh Kohli with *Hardeep Is Your Love* on September 19 and Susan Calman with her *Lady Like* show on October 5.

Edinburgh Fringe favourite Mark Watson performs on October 4.

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Melvyn Bragg

Melvyn Bragg's Radical Lives (BBC2, 9pm)

In the first of a new two-parter, Melvyn Bragg examines the lives, work and legacy of two men whose ideas have had enormous consequences in their own era and through the centuries. The first is John Ball, the great preacher of the 14th century. Ball's words and beliefs created groundbreaking revolutionary action. For many years he preached his in the south east of England, and was oppressed by the Church authorities he hated. By 1381 he joined forces with Wat Tyler in Kent and led a rebellion, dubbed the Peasants' Revolt. In this film, Bragg examines how they joined forces with many of London's disgruntled city dwellers; met with the king and made their demands.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast 9.30 Commonwealth Games. 12.00 BBC News. Weather. 12.10 Commonwealth Games. Further live coverage on the penultimate day of the Games. 3.00 Commonwealth Games. Continued coverage from Glasgow. 5.20 BBC News; Regional News; Weather. 5.40 Commonwealth Games. Further coverage on day 10 of the Games.

7.00 Commonwealth Games. Hazel Irvine and Gary Lineker introduce live coverage of the concluding athletics session of the Games, staged at Hampden Park in Glasgow. Nine finals will take place this evening, and there is no doubt that Usain Bolt will be the star attraction, as he competes for Jamaica in the men's 4x100m relay. Somewhat surprisingly, Bolt has never won a Commonwealth Games medal, but he will expect to put that right with his world record-holding team and add gold to his outstanding collection, which includes six Olympic and eight world championship triumphs. The schedule also features the finals of the men's 4x400m relay, 1500m, triple jump and javelin, and the women's 4x100m relay, 4x400m relay, 5,000m and pole vault. Plus, updates from the final of the men's 10m platform discipline at the Royal Commonwealth Pool in Edinburgh, which is expected to feature Tom Daley.

10.00 BBC News. Weather.

10.20 The National Lottery Live. Gaby Roslin reveals the results of the Lotto and Thunderball draws.

10.30 Tonight at the Games. Mark Chapman and Clare Balding present a round-up of the 10th and penultimate day's action at the Commonwealth Games, which featured the concluding athletics and diving.

11.40 Commonwealth Games Sportsday. Katherine Downes presents a round-up of the 10th day's events in Glasgow, focusing on the medal winners as the 20th staging of the Games continued; National Lottery Update.

11.55 Film: The Rookie. (2002) Fact-based drama about a former baseball player who returns to the big time while coaching a high-school team. Starring Dennis Quaid and Jay Hernandez.

2.00 Weather for the Week Ahead. 2.05 BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 Film: A Date with the Falcon. (1942) 7.00 Film: The Falcon Strikes Back. (1943) 8.05 The Living Planet. (R) 9.00 Fred Dibnah's Industrial Age. (R) 9.30 Great British Railway Journeys. (R) 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. (R) 11.30 Food & Drink. (R) 12.00 Rick Stein's India. (R) 1.00 Robert Redford: Talking Pictures. 1.40 Film: The Way We Were. (1973) 3.35 Escape to the Country. (R) 4.20 Beavers Behaving Badly - Natural World. (R) 5.20 Commonwealth Games. 5.40 Flog It!

6.10 Great War Diaries. New series. Documentary using dramatic reconstructions to tell the story of the First World War based on the letters and journals of those who lived through the conflict.

7.10 Pembrokeshire: Coastal Lives. Ghost hunters try to find out if Angle's Chapel Bay Fort contains more than just a collection of weapons and Nat James marries her fiancé at St David's Cathedral. Last in the series.

7.40 Dad's Army. Captain Mainwaring has too much to drink during a weekend course with Captain Square, but still manages to save Jones's life. Comedy, starring Arthur Lowe. (R)

8.15 Proms Extra 2014. Featuring reviews of the Zurich Chamber Orchestra's performance of Bach's St John Passion and the Proms debut of the China Philharmonic Orchestra. Presented by Katie Derham.

9.00 Melvyn Bragg's Radical Lives. Part one of two. The broadcaster examines the lives of two revolutionary thinkers, beginning with 14th-century priest John Ball, who was instrumental in the Peasants' Revolt.

10.00 Commonwealth Games. Further coverage on day 10 of the Games, which are being staged in Glasgow, with events taking place across the city.

10.30 QI XL. Extended edition. Sue Perkins, Reginald D Hunter and Jimmy Carr join Alan Davies as host Stephen Fry asks a range of questions of the topic of kitsch.

11.15 Film: Apocalypse. (2006) A Mayan tribesman captured to be used as a human sacrifice escapes into the jungle in a bid to save his family. Historical adventure, starring Rudy Youngblood.

1.20 Film: The Odd Angry Shot. (1979) 2.50 This is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITY: Pat & Stan. 6.10 Pat & Stan. (R) 6.25 Pat & Stan. (R) 6.35 Dine Dan. (R) 6.50 Animals. (R) 7.00 Animals. (R) 7.05 Sooty. (R) 7.20 Digimon Fusion. (R) 7.40 Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) 8.00 Adventure Time. 8.25 ITV News. 8.30 Weekend. 9.25 The Hungry Sailors. (R) 10.25 Murder, She Wrote. (R) 11.20 ITV News; Weather. 11.30 Storage Hoarders. (R) 12.30 All Star Mr & Mrs. (R) 1.30 Peter Andre's 60 Minute Makeover. (R) 2.25 Catchphrase. (R) 3.10 Film: The Comedy, starring Frankie Howerd. 5.00 Film: Valiant. (2005) Computer-animated adventure, with the voice of Ewan McGregor.

6.35 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.45 ITV News; Weather.

7.00 You've Been Framed! Surreal comedy from the mind of Harry Hill. (R)

7.30 Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. Jim Moir - better known as Vic Reeves - one half of comedy double act Reeves and Mortimer - Dallas star Charlene Tilton (who played Lucy Ewing) and actress-journalist Martine McCutcheon take turns on the arcade-style token-pushing machine. Dropping counters down a choice of four chutes, the celebrity contestants hope to knock pills of them off a moving shelf - and the more they collect, the better their chances of scooping the £20,000 prize for a charity of their choice. Game show, hosted by Ben Shephard.

8.30 All Star Family Fortunes. Vernon Kay hosts the game show in which well-known faces team up with their relatives to win a cash prize for charity. (R)

9.30 Film: Star Wars: Episode III - Revenge of the Sith. (2005) Tricked Anakin Skywalker finds himself seduced by the dark side of the Force and is tempted into betraying his fellow Jedi Knights as conflict erupts across countless planets and the forces of evil prepare to seize control of the galaxy. The final instalment of the sci-fi prequel trilogy, with Hayden Christensen. Continues after the News.

11.05 ITV News; Weather.

11.25 Film: Star Wars: Episode III - Revenge of the Sith. (2005) Concluded.

12.35 Jackpot247. 3.00 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) 3.40 ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The Hoobs. (R) 6.40 The Grid. 7.05 Trans World Sport. 8.00 The Morning Line. 9.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 9.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 10.00 Frasier. (R) 10.30 Frasier. (R) 11.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 11.25 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 11.55 The Simpsons. (R) 12.25 Speed with Guy Martin. (R) 1.30 Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage of the fifth day of the Glorious Goodwood festival. 4.10 Come Dine with Me. (R) 4.40 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.10 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.45 Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.15 Come Dine with Me. Alternative therapist Gill Bright hosts the final dinner party in Swindon and has plans for an Edwardian-themed evening with sophisticated food and circle dancing. (R)

6.45 Channel 4 News.

7.05 Amazing Spaces Shed of the Year. George Clarke continues the search to find Britain's best shed, focusing on the Summerhouse/ Cabin and Normal categories. He and his fellow judges visit a Gothic grotto decorated with 50,000 seashells, a replica 18th-century US frontier cabin, a scaled-down Elizabethan lodge, a disco shed, a 1970s amusement arcade - complete with a 12ft-high Ferris wheel - a 1950s American diner and a museum dedicated to TV comedy Dad's Army. (R)

8.00 Grand Designs. Kevin McCloud follows the progress of architectural designer Lincoln Miles and his wife, artist Lisa Tuxler, who want to create their own home on the site of Wright. They have bought a property on a prime piece of land and set out to convert it into a creative structure that harmonises with the unspoilt woodland setting. (R)

9.00 Film: The Inbetweeners Movie. (2011) A comedy about two teenage boys, Simon, Will, Jay and Neil plan a holiday to the Greek island of Crete after they finish their exams, hoping to experience drink, sex and debauchery beyond their wildest dreams. However, things do not quite turn out as planned. Comedy based on the TV series, with Joe Thomas.

11.05 Film: Scary Movie. (2000) Spoof horror, starring Anna Faris and Shannon Elizabeth.

12.50 The Last Leg. (R) 1.30 Utopia. (R) 2.25 Film: Mother. (2009) 4.30 Hollyoaks.

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! 10.00 Access. 10.05 Emergency Bikers. (R) 11.00 Emergency Bikers. (R) 12.00 Emergency Bikers. (R) 1.00 Film: Rocky III. (1982) Boxing drama, starring Sylvester Stallone. 2.55 Film: Every Which Way But Loose. (1978) Action comedy, starring Clint Eastwood. 5.10 Film: Where Eagles Dare. (1969) Second World War adventure, with Richard Burton and Clint Eastwood.

7.55 5 News Weekend.

8.00 Blinging Up Baby. Documentary examining the growing trend for parents to kit out their toddlers in glamorous outfits, from crystal-covered dummies and frills to hairpieces, make-up and spray tans. In Essex, Sophie-May Dickson has dressed her two daughters like Barbie dolls since they were born, and talks about the criticism it has attracted both online and in the street. Birkenhead shop owner Marie Fullerton has been making bespoke children's clothing for 25 years, and reveals a recent upsurge in trade with people bringing in bottles, prams and bathtubs to be "blinged up". Jayne Ashbourne narrates. (R)

9.00 Big Brother. Highlights of another 24 hours in the Big Brother house, including coverage of the latest eviction as seen from the point of view of the contestants, who share their diary-room thoughts on their recently departed friend - or enemy. Narrated by Marcus Bentley.

10.00 Autopsy: The Last Hours of Karen Carpenter. Dr Richard Shepherd investigates the death of the singer in February 1983, uncovering stories of bulimia, heart problems, sedatives, massive weight loss and force-feeding. (R)

11.00 Big Brother's Bit on the Psych. Ryan Clark and Iain Lee present analysis of the housemates' behaviour.

12.00 SuperCasino. Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. 3.10 The Dog Rescuers with Alan Davies. Cathy Hyde helps police break up a suspected puppy-trafficking ring. (R) 4.00 Great Scientists. A profile of Albert Einstein. Last in the series. (R) 4.25 Make It Big. (R) 5.15 Angels of Jarm. (R) 5.40 Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three

10.00 Russell Howard's Good News
11.00 Family Guy 1.15 American Dad!
2.00 People Just Do Nothing 2.30 Him & Her: The Wedding 4.00 Close
BBC Four

7.00 Human Planet 8.00 Treasures of Ancient Egypt 9.00 Inspector Montalbano 10.30 Dolly Parton @ Glastonbury 2014 11.45 Dolly Parton: Platinum Blonde 12.45 Queens of Country 1.45 Human Planet 2.45 Treasures of Ancient Egypt 3.45 Close
ITV2

11.45 Take Me Out 12.40 Dinner Date: Australia 1.35 The Only Way Is Essex 3.05 Film: Mr Magorium's Wonder Emporium (2007) 5.00 Totally You've Been Framed! 6.00 You've Been Framed! Funniest 100 7.00 Film: About a Boy (2002) 9.00 Film: Friends with Kids (2011) 11.15 Film: Saw II (2005) 1.05 The Magul Weekend 2.00 Crazy Beaches 2.20 Life's Funniest Moments 2.45 The Vamps: The Desk 2.55 Teleshopping 5.55 ITV2 Nightscreen
ITV3

12.40 Sherlock Holmes: The Eligible Bachelor 2.55 A Touch of Frost 7.00 Lewis 9.00 Foyle's War 11.00 Bomb Girls 12.00 A Touch of Frost 1.55 ITV3 Nightscreen 2.30 Teleshopping
ITV4

11.00 Storage Wars Unlocked 12.50 Storage Wars 2.45 Film: The War Wagon (1967) 4.50 Hornblower 9.00 Film: Goldfinger (1964) 11.20 Film: Death Wish V: The Face of Death (1994) 1.15 Gareth Thomas: Sport Life Stories 2.15 Tommy Cooper 2.45 ITV4 Nightscreen 3.00 Teleshopping 3.30 The Store 4.30 Teleshopping
E4

11.30 2 Broke Girls 12.30 How I Met Your Mother 1.30 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD 2.30 The Big Bang Theory 4.30 Melissa & Joey 5.30 How I Met Your Mother 6.30 Brooklyn Nine-Nine 7.00 The Big Bang Theory 8.00 The 100 9.00 Film: Terminator 2: Judgment Day (1991) 11.45 The Big Bang Theory 12.45 Virtually Famous 1.35 How I Met Your Mother 3.15 Rules of Engagement 4.00 Being Erica 4.45 Desperate Housewives
Film4

11.00 Fantastic Voyage (1966) 1.00 Home Alone 2: Lost in New York (1992) 3.20 Charlotte's Web (2006) 5.10 City of Ember (2008) 7.00 Mad Money (2008) 9.00 Limitless (2011) 11.05 Your Highness (2011) 1.10 The Rocky Horror Picture Show (1975) 3.15 Close

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CHOICE



Gary Lineker

Commonwealth Games: Closing Ceremony (BBC1, 9pm)

Gary Lineker, Clare Balding and Hazel Irvine present live coverage from Hampden Park in Glasgow, as the 20th Commonwealth Games are officially brought to a close after 11 days of competition. The ceremony promises to celebrate Scotland's way of life and gives the athletes the chance to unwind after a hectic schedule, with the baton handed over to Gold Coast City, host of the 2018 Games. The Games have been the largest multi-sport event ever held in Scotland, featuring 17 sports and competitors from 71 nations, and they will all have a chance to enjoy their moment in the spotlight this evening. Subsequent programmes subject to change.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast: 7.45 Commonwealth Games. **11.45** BBC News; Weather. **11.55** Commonwealth Games: 5.35 Seven Wonders of the Commonwealth. **6.35 BBC News:** Regional News. **7.00 Countryfile:** Matt Baker joins foragers scouring the coast of Cornwall for free food, trying his hand at freediving to get hold of spider crab. Anita Rani joins the team, helping to blast 26,000 tons of rock in a Cornish china clay quarry said to be the biggest in the world, and Helen Skelton sees a tribute to the Heligan gardeners who fought in France during the First World War. Tom Heap investigates Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg's plans to bring back garden cities, asking whether it could have a detrimental effect on the countryside, and Adam Henson is excited to receive the keys to a new combine harvester, including Weather for the Week Ahead. **8.00 Commonwealth Games:** A look back at the Glasgow Games, which took place over 11 days and were the 20th staging of the event. **9.00 Commonwealth Games: Closing Ceremony:** Gary Lineker, Clare Balding and Hazel Irvine present live coverage from Hampden Park in Glasgow, as the 20th Commonwealth Games are officially brought to a close after 11 days of competition. The ceremony promises to celebrate Scotland's way of life and gives the athletes the chance to unwind after a hectic schedule, with the baton handed over to Gold Coast City, host of the 2018 Games. The Games have been the largest multi-sport event ever held in Scotland, featuring 17 sports and competitors from 71 nations, and they will all have a chance to enjoy their moment in the spotlight this evening. Subsequent programmes subject to change. **11.00 BBC News:** Regional News; Weather. **11.25 Kevin Bridges Live at the Commonwealth:** The comic hosts an evening of comedy from Glasgow's Theatre Royal, with Canada's Katherine Ryan, South Africa's Trevor Noah, England's Simon Evans and Danny Bhoy from Scotland. **12.05** Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.10** BBC News.

BBC2

6.25 Film: Sinbad the Sailor. (1947) **8.20** Alan Titchmarsh's Garden Secrets. (R) **8.20** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.50** The Beechgrove Garden. **10.20** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.50** Rick Stein's India. (R) **12.50 Film:** The Philadelphia Story. (1940) Romantic comedy, starring Katharine Hepburn and Cary Grant. **2.40 Film:** Guess Who's Coming to Dinner. (1967) Comedy drama, starring Spencer Tracy and Katharine Hepburn. **4.25** Songs of Praise. **5.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **6.00 Flog It!** Charlie Ross and Mark Stacey head for Monmouth, where they discover a small Austrian bronze and an art-deco bracelet. Meanwhile, Paul Martin examines the work of fashion designer Laura Ashley, and visits the Forest of Dean to meet a local man creating works of art with a chainsaw. (R) **7.00 Tropic of Capricorn:** Simon Reeve uncovers extraordinary stories and experiences, including a collection of cultures located in the southern tropics. The first leg of his journey sees the globe-trotting presenter cross the sweeping vistas of Namibia and Botswana, where he witnesses the vestiges of German colonisation in Swakopmund and searches for the Bushmen of the Kalahari desert. (R) **8.00 Dragons' Den:** Two university friends pitch home-brew cider kits, a loose leaf tea company serves up a refreshing treat and a former economics student hopes to impress with his nutty preserve. **9.00 The Thirteenth Tale:** Biographer Margaret Lea (Olivia Colman) is summoned to the home of reclusive and terminally ill novelist Vida Winter (Vanessa Redgrave) to document the author's life. Vida reveals the secrets of her dark and unsettling childhood at ancestral home Angeliefeld, forcing Margaret to face up to the tragedy she herself suffered as a young girl. Psychological mystery, with Robert Pugh. (R) **10.30 Film: Winger's Bone.** (2010) A teenage girl searches for her estranged father, whose bail-jumping threatens to leave her mother and siblings homeless. Drama, with Jennifer Lawrence. **12.05** Sign Zone: The Battle for Stonehenge: A Culture Show Special. (R) **1.05** Holby City. (R) **2.05** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITY: Pat & Stan. (R) **6.10** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.25** Dino Dan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.50** Animals. (R) **7.00** Animals. (R) **7.05** Sooty. (R) **7.20** Digimon Fusion. (R) **7.40** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.55** Chowder. (R) **8.10** Chowder. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend: 9.25 May the Best House Win. (R) **10.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.20** ITV News: Weather. **11.35** River Monsters. (R) **12.05** Love Your Garden. (R) **1.05** Long Lost Family. (R) **2.10** Film: Columbo: The Bye-Bye Sky-High IQ Murder Case. (1977) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk. **3.50** Midsomer Murders. (R) **5.50** Tipping Point. (R) **6.45** Regional Programme: Weather. **7.00** ITV News: Weather. **7.15** Catchphrase: Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show, asking three contestants to "see it and say it" as they try to guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clips. After the first elimination, the two remaining players battle to reach the Super Catchphrase round, where one of them could win £50,000. (R) **8.00 Foyle's War:** The detective is drawn into the strange murder of eminent art historian Professor Van Haren, who was really a former high-ranking Nazi hired by the SIS due to his expert knowledge of Soviet intelligence. Meanwhile, as Sam's husband Adam embarks on a busy career as an MP, she worries whether she will be able to share some big news with him. Crime drama set in the 1940s, starring Michael Kitchen and Honeyusuckle Weeks, with Tamzin Outhwaite and Rupert Vansittart. Last in the series. (R) **10.00** ITV News: Weather. **10.15** Brothers in Arms: The Pals Army of World War One. Drawing on archive interviews, this documentary tells the story of the young British men who signed up for the Army with their friends and fought together in the First World War. **11.15** Premiership Rugby 7s Series. Gethin Jones presents highlights from the opening group stage, as 16 clubs aimed to progress to Friday's finals night at the Stoop. **12.15** The Store. Home shopping. **2.15** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.45** ITV Nightscreen. **4.15** Britain's Best Bakery. (R) **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. Guests air their differences. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.35 Ironman UK Bolton. **7.05** British F3. **7.30** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.55** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.35** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) **1.40** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.10** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.35** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **3.00** The Simpsons. (R) **3.35** Film: Step Up 2: The Streets (2008) Premiere, Drama, starring Briana Evigan. **5.35** Deal or No Deal. **6.30** Channel 4 News. **7.00** Tom's Fantastic Floating Home. Tom Lawton continues his ambitious project to transform a derelict boat into a home filled with practical inventions for everyday life, focusing his fertile imagination on the way people cook and eat in this second edition. Taking inspiration from fellow inventors and feats of engineering, he designs some space-saving pop-up furniture, an indoor-outdoor barbecue to combat the variable British weather and an aquabike that can be used on both land and water. But will he manage to stay afloat? **8.00 The Mill.** As the Chartist rally at Kersal Moor approaches, Daniel does his best to inspire the workers despite a lacklustre response. Esther deals with Patience and her escalating abuse of young girls in the apprentice house, while Miriam grows closer to Peter when she offers to teach him to read - causing a stir in the pub. Susannah becomes increasingly bored and frustrated with domestic life. **9.00 Child Genius.** The stakes are high in the penultimate stage of the competition as the 10 remaining contestants vie for six places in the final. They face two challenging rounds: spelling, featuring some of the most difficult words in the English language, and general knowledge, testing them on a vast range of topics, from geography to astronomy. **10.00 Film: The Women.** (2008) Comedy drama remake, starring Meg Ryan and Annette Bening. **12.20** Film: Somewhere. (2010) **2.00** The Million Pound Drop. (R) **2.55** The Hoarder Next Door. (R) **3.50** Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. (R) **4.45** Kirstie's Vintage Gems. (R) **4.55** Deal or No Deal. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Abby's Flying Fairy School. (R) **6.25** Bubble Guppies. (R) **6.40** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.50** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.00** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.20** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **7.25** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.40** City of Friends. (R) **7.50** Little Princess. (R) **8.05** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.15** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.30** Mio Mao. (R) **8.40** Rupert Bear. (R) **8.55** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.30** LazyTown. (R) **10.00** Access. (R) **10.05** Police Interceptors. (R) **11.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.00** Film: Police Academy 5: Assignment Miami Beach. (1988) Comedy sequel, starring Bubba Smith. **3.45** Film: Are We There Yet? (2005) Family comedy, starring Ice Cube. **5.35** Film: Hercules. (1997) **7.15** 5 News Weekend. **7.20** Film: Little Nicky. (2000) The Devil decides to put off retirement for a little longer, but his two oldest sons are left fuming - and decide to get revenge by creating Hell on Earth. The job of saving the world falls to their good-natured younger brother, who travels to New York to put things right. Comedy, starring Adam Sandler, Patricia Arquette, Harvey Keitel, Rhys Ifans, Reese Witherspoon and Rodney Dangerfield. Edited to reduce sexual content, language, violence and flashing images. **9.00 Big Brother.** Daily round-up of highlights as the remaining housemates enter their final fortnight, revealing whether they have got over the tension and paranoia of the earlier weeks. **10.00 Film: The Losers.** (2010) Elite soldiers are betrayed and left for dead by their CIA employers, but return to seek revenge. Action adventure, starring Jeffrey Dean Morgan and Chris Evans. **11.50** Car Thieves & Thugs: Caught on Camera. Nick Wallis discovers how CCTV and technological advances are helping to tackle criminals exhibiting a complete disregard for the safety of others while at the wheel of a vehicle. (R) **12.50** SuperCasino. **3.15** Police Interceptors. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **5.15** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.40** Olly the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 Top Gear **8.05** Film: Meet the Fockers. (2004) **10.00** Family Guy **10.45** People Just Do Nothing **11.45** Family Guy **12.30** Russell Howard's Good News **1.30** People Just Do Nothing **2.30** Some Girls **3.30** Russell Howard's Good News **4.00** Close

BBC Four

7.00 The Sunday Prom: Richard Strauss Celebration **9.05** Genghis Khan **10.05** Mad Dog: Saddam's Secret World - Storyville **11.30** Boycotts and Broken Dreams - The Story of the 1988 Commonwealth Games **12.30** Elvis: That's All Right 60 Years On **1.30** Kings of Rock 'n' Roll **2.30** Rock 'n' Roll Britannia **3.30** Sounds of the 70s

ITV2

12.05 America's Got Talent **2.45** Film: Small Soldiers (1998) **4.55** Film: Scooby-Doo (2002) **6.45** Film: Back to the Future (1985) **9.00** Film: The Holiday (2006) **11.45** Film: Billy Madison (1995) **1.35** The Big Reunion 2014 **2.25** Life's Funniest Moments **2.50** Teleshopping

ITV3

11.35 Inspector Morse **1.50** A Touch of Frost **4.05** Film: Murny on the Buses (1972) **5.55** Inspector Morse **8.00** Phil O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs **9.00** Film: The American President (1995) **11.25** Wycliffe **12.30** William and Mary **1.25** Sherlock Holmes: The Eligible Bachelor

ITV4

11.00 Live British Touring Car Championship. **6.00** Goodwood Festival of Speed 2014 **7.00** Goodwood: Cars of the Future **8.00** Premiership Rugby 7s Series **9.00** Film: Two Mules for Sister Sara (1970) **11.20** Hell on Wheels **12.20** Film: Barb Wire (1996) **2.15** Richard Bacon's Beer and Pizza Club **3.00** Teleshopping **3.30** The Store

E4

12.30 Melissa & Joey **1.25** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **2.25** Suburgatory **2.55** The Mindy Project **3.25** New Girl **3.55** The Big Bang Theory **4.55** The 100 **6.00** Rude(ish) Tube **6.50** Film: Dear John (2010) **9.00** The Inbetweeners Go Global **10.00** The Inbetweeners: Viewers' Top 5 **12.50** The Inbetweeners Top 10 Moments **1.50** The Big Bang Theory **2.40** Virtually Famous **3.25** Hollyoaks

Film4

11.00 The Three Worlds of Gulliver (1960) **1.00** Bride Wars (2009) **2.45** Jungle 2 Jungle (1997) **4.50** Rat Race (2001) **7.05** Sister Act (1992) **9.00** Friends with Benefits (2011) **11.10** Boomerang (1992) **1.25** Ashes of Time (1994) **3.20** Close

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MONDAY

Murder Without Conviction, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A former nun becomes fascinated with the case of twins who apparently murdered their mother when she learns one of the brothers is being held in the same care home as her mentally handicapped cousin. Her encounters with the supposed killer leave her convinced of his innocence, and she resolves to uncover the truth behind the crime. Mystery, starring Megan Ward. (2004)

TUESDAY

The Girl He Met Online, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A woman suffers dangerous mood swings and a fierce temper that have ruined all her past relationships. When she meets a new man, she resolves to keep her dark side in check, but as she comes under pressure from her boss and mother, she begins to lose control, with fatal consequences. Thriller, with Yvonne Zima. (2014)

WEDNESDAY

The Man Without a Face, BBC1, 11.35pm
A reclusive and disfigured former teacher meets a lonely teenager, who hires his services as a tutor to get the grades he needs to enrol at the same military school as his father. In time they form a bond, learning to support each other through life's ups and downs – but the schoolteacher's troubled past is about to catch up with him. Drama, directed by and starring Mel Gibson. With Nick Stahl and Margaret Whitton. (1993)



Duplicity, Friday, ITV, 10.40pm

THURSDAY

Trust the Man, BBC1, 11.35pm
Two Manhattan-based couples hit a rocky patch in their relationships. Husband and wife Tom and Rebecca look to therapy and counselling to try to save their ailing marriage, while Tobey and Elaine decide to go their separate ways after seven difficult years together. Comedy drama, with David Duchovny. (2005)

FRIDAY

Duplicity, ITV, 10.40pm
A former CIA agent and an ex-MI6 officer find their romantic past catching up with them as they go head to head working in counter-intelligence for multinational corporations. As they try to outmanoeuvre each other to gain information about a lucrative product, they have difficulty maintaining a professional focus amid the sexual tension. Thriller, starring Julia Roberts, Clive Owen, Tom Wilkinson and Paul Giamatti. (2009)

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PICK OF THE WEEK

Baby blues begin to kick in for a terrified Rosie

As the success of Call the Midwife and One Born Every Minute proved, pregnancy makes for great TV. But why are we all so fascinated by childbirth?

Writer Kay Mellor, the woman who gave us acclaimed drama series Band of Gold and The Syndicate, has her own theories. She says: "It's a life-changing situation, no matter who you are; whether you're a schoolgirl living in a high-rise council flat or a 46-year-old rich business woman – your life will never be the same again."

"The fact is there are very few 'lessons' on how to give birth and be a parent. We study for three or four years for a degree and yet we're supposed to know instinctively how to give birth and be a good parent – arguably one of the most important roles we'll ever have in life. The truth is young or old, we're all terrified of it – male and female alike."

So, it's no surprise to learn that Kay has been planning to write a series about pregnancies since at least 2000. "I had the idea round about the same time I had the idea for Fat Friends but there was more of an appetite for Fat Friends at the time

and so In the Club was put on the back burner."

But now the series' due date has finally arrived. In the Club follows six mums-to-be who are all attending the same parenting class, including midwife Vicky (Christine Bottomley), businesswoman Roanna (Hermione Norris), newlywed Jasmin (Taj Atwal) and teaching assistant and blogger Kim (Katherine Parkinson).

All the women have their own issues to deal with, but the first episode focuses particularly on housewife Diane (Jill Halfpenny), who was told she and husband Rick (Will Mellor) would never conceive. In theory, they should be celebrating their 'miracle child', but when a scan reveals more than they bargained for, unemployed Rick feels under increased pressure to provide for his family.

Meanwhile, 15-year-old Rosie (Hannah Midgley) is trying to keep her pregnancy a secret from everyone, but that bump is getting ever harder to hide.

Kay had her first child at 16, and Rosie's story is particularly close to

her heart, as the young actress playing her discovered. Hannah (who soap fans may remember as the previous incarnation of Emmerdale's Victoria Sugden), says: "She told me quite a bit within the first episode as it was nice for me to understand what a 15-year-old would go through when giving birth. She gave me lots of advice, which was really intriguing and intimate. It's so important for me to do it justice for her."

In fact, it seems the bonding process started at the audition. Hannah recalls: "I was really nervous as I saw something in Rosie that I could connect with and I understood her. I also really wanted my next break after leaving Emmerdale..."

"Kay said 'let's do this scene' and I was sobbing the whole way through. I got to the end of the scene and I looked up and Kay was streaming. I thought that even if I don't get the part, I can be proud of myself as it was a good audition."

And with five more emotional stories to tell, chances are Rosie won't be the only one crying by the end of the series.



Hannah Midgley stars, In the Club, Tuesday, BBC1, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

World War One Remembered from the Battlefield, BBC2, 6.30pm

Huw Edwards in London and Sophie Raworth in Belgium introduce live coverage of a commemorative event marking the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War. Dan Snow hosts from St Symphorian military cemetery near Mons, where British, Commonwealth and German soldiers are buried side by side. Gareth Malone leads a children's choir singing their own specially written song, and actor Eddie Redmayne and serving British and German soldiers read poems and testimonies. There is also a recording of a collaboration between the London Symphony Orchestra and the Berlin Philharmonic under the baton of conductor Simon Rattle, performing the last movement of Brahms's German Requiem and Butterworth's A Shropshire Lad.

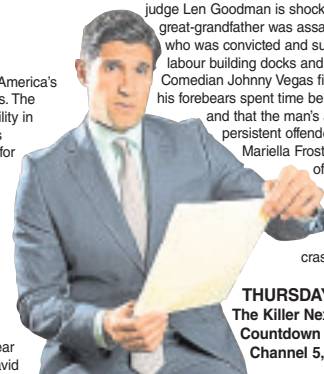
Long Lost Family, ITV, 9pm

Inge Dart, 66, grew up in Kenya in the dying days of the British Empire, overshadowed by her domineering mother. After becoming pregnant at the age of 19, she was sent halfway around the world to give birth in secret. Banished to Surrey, she was taken in by a couple who looked after her

until her daughter was born. Inge's childhood sweetheart Jeremy soon visited and the young lovers spent what little time they had with their baby. Long Lost Family takes on Inge's search for her child and, in a first for the programme, her daughter's own search for her father Jeremy. Davina McCall and Nicky Campbell present.

TUESDAY Kids Behind Bars, ITV, 9pm

Documentary meeting some of America's most dangerous young offenders. The Wabash Valley Correctional Facility in Indiana is home to 40 teenagers serving terms of up to 65 years for a range of serious crimes. This programme follows those spending their first night in the maximum-security prison and others preparing to move up to adult jail. They include Blake Layman, 17, sentenced to 55 years for murder, and Ireland MacKean, 16, who says he wants to stay out of trouble behind bars as he starts a 10-year term for robbery. Narrated by David Morrissey.



Walter, Friday, BBC1, 9pm

WEDNESDAY Secrets from the Clinic, ITV, 9pm

The first of a two-part programme in which celebrities embark on an emotional journey to discover how their ancestors coped with serving time in Victorian prisons. Strictly Come Dancing judge Len Goodman is shocked to learn his great-great-grandfather was assaulted by his own son, who was convicted and subjected to hard labour building docks and quarrying for stone. Comedian Johnny Vegas finds out how one of his forebears spent time behind bars for stealing, and that the man's alcoholic wife was a persistent offender. Broadcaster Mariella Frostrup hears the story of her great-great-grandfather, an entrepreneur who resorted to fraud when the economy crashed in the 1870s.

THURSDAY The Killer Next Door: Countdown to Murder, Channel 5, 8pm

It was Christmastime

2010, and landscape architect Joanna Yeates' family were getting extremely worried about her. The 25-year-old hadn't been seen for days, but it was on Christmas Day – eight days after she was killed – that Joanna's body was discovered. The second series of this at times hard-hitting programme begins with a dramatic reconstruction of the moments leading up to Joanna's death, and explains how she originally moved to Bristol for work in 2008 – her boyfriend Greg Reardon worked for the same company. In October 2010, they moved to a new flat, acquiring new neighbour – quiet Dutch engineer Vincent Tabak – but he would go on to murder Joanna two months later.

FRIDAY Walter, BBC1, 9pm

One-off comedy drama, starring Adrian Dunbar as world-weary detective inspector Walter Gambon, whose workload increases when he is handed the cases of an officer who recently committed suicide – and ends up trying to track down yet another fellow officer who has gone so far undercover, nobody knows where he is. Helping Gambon is young, slightly clumsy and more than a little bit stupid detective constable Anne Hopkins – and together they track down the cop in question to a hardened drugs gang.

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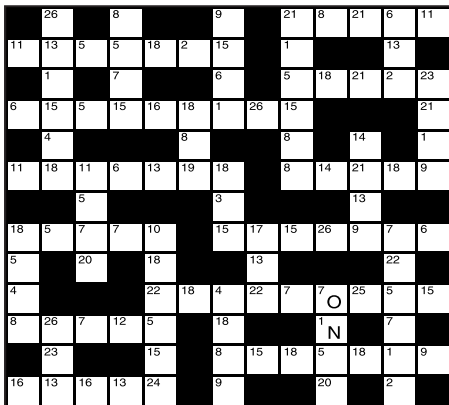
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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
N	P	X	A	F	Q	U	Y	O	M	T	R	D
B	V	J	Z	G	W	C	E	K	S	L	H	I

1	N	14
2		15
3		16
4		17
5		18
6		19
7	O	20
8		21
9		22
10		23
11		24
12		25
13		26

Cryptic Clues:

Across

6 & 7Ac. The sort of tax from which London benefits? (7,5)

7. See 6 Across

9. See 19 Across

10. Didn't take a straight course to the sea (9)

12. Mixes drinks for second-hand markets (6-5)

15. Being fair, they don't say anything! (4,7)

17. Temporary accommodation for campanologists? (4-5)

19 & 9Ac. A Royal Marine permitted to show a badge (6)

21. A piece of music (low notes) required for the tumbler (5)

22. Produce a score to put somebody at ease (7)

Down

1. Arrived with nothing but a kind of brooch (5)

2. Mine is upset by this dump (3)

3. A stone horse of little use (4)

4. He dictates what the rates will be (4-5)

5. Shockingly enraged (7)

8. Restrict enemy movements on a rotational basis, we hear (6)

11. Frilly pieces underneath with animal skins all round (9)

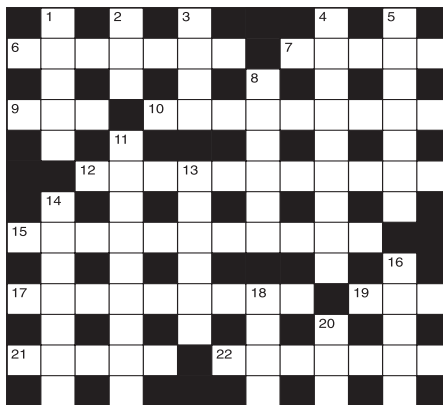
13. When this projectile gets in, it's news (6)

14. Panacea for a learner in cruel confusion (4-3)

16. Right in the money, but this indicates bankruptcy (5)

18. Use the horn as well near the end of the street (4)

20. South Pennsylvania provides a treatment centre (3)



Quick Clues:

Across

6. Obstruction (7)

7. Vex (5)

9. Attempt (3)

10. Stakes (9)

12. Compensation (11)

15. Understaffed (5-6)

17. Society (9)

19. Passage (3)

21. Representative (5)

22. Unresisting (7)

Down

1. Ward off (5)

2. Thirsty (3)

3. Sharp (4)

4. Not wanted (9)

5. Satisfied (7)

8. Keep (6)

11. Harm (9)

13. Near (2,4)

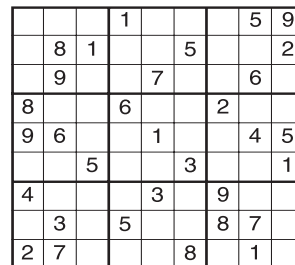
14. By means of (7)

16. Forgo (5)

18. Salver (4)

20. Request (3)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

4	9	5	6	7	3	1	8	2
6	1	7	8	5	2	3	4	9
2	8	3	9	1	4	6	5	7
5	6	2	4	8	7	9	3	1
9	7	8	5	3	1	4	2	6
1	3	4	2	6	9	5	7	8
8	5	9	7	4	6	2	1	3
7	2	1	3	9	5	8	6	4
3	4	6	1	2	8	7	9	5

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Blotting paper; 8 Dominant; 9 Bomb; 10 Papers; 12 Torrid; 14 Detail; 16 Deigns; 18 Rood; 20 Tolerate; 22 Electric razor. Down: 1 Allocate; 2 Strike; 3 Lima; 4 Agitated; 5 Camber; 6 Seam; 11 Solitary; 13 Ignition; 15 Addict; 17 Inroad; 19 Oils; 21 Lock. QUICK - Across: 7 Overstatement; 8 Pretence; 9 Need; 10 Tureen; 12 Gossip; 14 Hectic; 16 Hustle; 18 Face; 20 Nonsense; 22 Contemplation. Down: 1 Overture; 2 Writhe; 3 Stun; 4 Strength; 5 Amends; 6 Once; 11 Nickname; 13 Illusion; 15 Treaty; 17 Sheath; 19 Atom; 21 Null.

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Weston-super-Mare £139.95
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Pontins Brean Sands £119.95
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Extended family house has four large bedrooms



AN extended detached family home in Long Lane, Halesowen, also has a refitted bathroom.

Having four bedrooms and a box room it is for sale through Humberstones Homes at £299,950. It has an entrance hall with under-stairs storage, a dining room with feature fireplace, a lounge with a feature fireplace and patio door to rear garden. The breakfast kitchen has wood effect units. There is also a utility room and a shower room. On the first floor are four bedrooms and a box room and a bathroom with a white suite including a shower cubicle and bath. The front garden is part lawned and part shrubbed adjoining a block paved driveway that leads to the garage. The rear garden includes a lawn, a terrace extending the whole length of the house and a paved area.

Contact Humberstones Homes on 0121 678 7788 or visit www.humberstoneshomes.co.uk



Spacious home in a sought-after area



IN a desirable location at Mucklow Hill, Halesowen, this four double bed roomed detached house is for sale through Hicks Hadley at £449,950.

It has an entrance porch, living room with a bay window and a fireplace, a conservatory, hallway with a storage cupboard, a dining room with a bay window, utility and a cloakroom. The kitchen is fitted with a range of wall and base units incorporating electric cooker with a gas hob.

The master bedroom has a range of fitted wardrobes and en suite including a corner bath and shower cubicle. Bedroom two has fitted wardrobes while bedroom four has a storage cupboard. The bathroom has a suite including a bath with a shower. There is a lawn and patio. Contact Hicks Hadley on 01562 510440 or visit www.hickshadley.com



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QUARRY BANK



Rose Hill

Tucked away off the High Street, this BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED AND THOUGHTFULLY EXTENDED, THREE BEDROOM DETACHED BUNGALOW affords a layout with GAS CENTRAL HEATING AND DOUBLE GLAZING to include; hall, attractive sitting room, separate dining room, oak styled breakfast kitchen, three bedrooms and impressive shower room. Gated drive front, garage and lovely rear garden. EPC Rating D. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

£210,000

RUSSELLS HALL



Scotts Green Close

This deceptively spacious, TWO / THREE (potentially FOUR / FIVE) BEDROOM DETACHED DORMER BUNGALOW is situated in an established residential location, and personal inspection is highly recommended to appreciate the potential of the accommodation provided. The property briefly comprises: Entrance Porch, imposing Hall, Lounge, Dining Kitchen, Utility / Boiler Room, TWO GROUND FLOOR DOUBLE BEDROOMS, Extensive Loft Room (with tremendous scope for sub-division), Garage, Driveway and Rear Garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating E. CONTACT BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

£189,950

WORDSLEY



REFURBISHED

Balmoral Road

JUST BEAUTIFULLY REFURBISHED THROUGHOUT, this SUCCESSFULLY EXTENDED, MODERN SEMI-DETACHED FAMILY HOME contains a very desirable address with BEAUTIFULLY RE-APPOINTED accommodation, all with new décor, carpets/floor coverings, etc. including GAS CENTRAL HEATING, UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING, comprising: Reception Hall, large full width Lounge, Dining Room extension, luxury refitted Kitchen with built-in appliances, Three very good sized Bedrooms and new Bathroom. Full width block paved driveway, GARAGE and LANDSCAPED REAR GARDEN. EPC Rating: E. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£161,950

BRIERLEY HILL



Carder Drive

This THOUGHTFULLY IMPROVED AND WELL PRESENTED, THREE BEDROOM, MODERN DETACHED FAMILY HOME sits at the rear head of the close, and with GAS CENTRAL HEATING AND DOUBLE GLAZING comprises: Hall, Guests Cloakroom, Attractive Sitting Room, Refitted Breakfast Kitchen, Three Bedrooms and Delightful White Bathroom. Fore Garden, Drive to Garage and Pleasant Rear Garden. EPC Rating D. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

£156,000

KINGSWINFORD



Gower Avenue

Enjoying a pleasant cul-de-sac setting within this address upon the popular and sought after 'High Acres' development, this ATTRACTIVELY IMPROVED MODERN SEMI-DETACHED BUNGALOW affords SPACIOUS and WELL APPOINTED / PRESENTED accommodation comprising: entrance porch, splendid large lounge with dining space, attractively refitted kitchen, inner hall, TWO GOOD BEDROOMS, re-appointed 'classic white' bathroom, GAS CENTRAL HEATING AND UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING. With a low maintenance frontage, BLOCK PAVED DRIVEWAY, CARPORT, GARAGE and pleasant patio / lawned rear garden which enjoys an OPEN REAR ASPECT. EPC Rating: TBA. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£144,950

BROCKMOOR



Belle Isle

Favouring an enviable position within this established address and in close proximity to popular schooling, this MODERN, BEAUTIFULLY DECORATED, THREE BEDROOM, LINK DETACHED HOME includes a layout including GAS CENTRAL HEATING AND UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING and encompasses a SUPERB CONTEMPORARY KITCHEN WITH FITTED APPLIANCES. The selling agents strongly recommend a viewing and at the earliest opportunity to avoid disappointment. The property is seen to briefly comprise: Hall, Guests Cloakroom, Attractive Sitting Room, Superb Contemporary Kitchen, Three First Floor Bedrooms and Delightful Shower Room. Generous Block Pave Driveway, Garage and Enclosed Rear Garden. EPC Rating D. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265.

£139,950

KINGSWINFORD



Park Street

Conveniently located within Kingswinford's highly sought after 'Old Quarter', just a short walk from a selection of shops / amenities with the heart of Kingswinford, this INCREDIBLY DECEPTIVE, ATTRACTIVELY IMPROVED 'PERIOD' MID TERRACE HOME offers SPACIOUS and WELL APPOINTED accommodation and is further enhanced by a LONG LEVEL REAR GARDEN. The accommodation includes: Lounge, separate Dining Room, CELLAR, re-fitted Kitchen with built-in appliances, re-appointed bathroom and TWO EXCELLENT DOUBLE BEDROOMS; GAS CENTRAL HEATING AND UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING. EPC Rating: E. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£135,950

BRIERLEY HILL



Sorrel Walk

Favouring an enviable position within this established address and in close proximity to 'Peters Hill' primary schools and Merry Hill Shopping Centre, this MODERN AND TASTFULLY DECORATED, THREE BEDROOM, SEMI DETACHED HOME should appeal to first time buyers and includes a layout with both GAS CENTRAL HEATING AND MAJORITY UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING. The property is seen to briefly comprise: Reception Hall, Pleasant Sitting Room with Dining Area, Well Fitted Kitchen, Three First Floor Bedrooms and Delightful Bathroom. Generous Garage and Enclosed Rear Garden. EPC Rating C. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265.

£124,950

HOLLY HALL



Fullwood Crescent

Favouring an enviable position within this established address, this WELL PRESENTED, THREE BEDROOM, SEMI DETACHED HOME includes a layout encompassing both GAS CENTRAL HEATING AND UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING and has a number of notable features such as an ESTABLISHED REAR GARDEN. The property is seen to briefly comprise: Porch, Hall, Pleasant Sitting Room with Dining Area, MODERN WELL FITTED KITCHEN, Conservatory, Contemporary Shower Room. Three Good First Floor Bedrooms, Generous Drive, Garage and Large Rear Garden. EPC Rating D. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265.

£124,950

SEDGLEY



Rowan Road

A part UPVC double glazed, gas centrally heated (combi boiler), intermediate 'starter home' that has been conscientiously maintained over the years, but now requires a little sympathetic updating. Set in well regarded/established district, the accommodation includes: porch, entrance hall, through living room, dining kitchen, two bedrooms, upgraded bathroom with a white suite, outer lobby with utility room, w.c. & store. Sheltered rear garden, potential off road parking. EPC Rating: C. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £97,950

BRIERLEY HILL



Leys Crescent

This traditional style, gas centrally heated, Three Bedroom Semi Detached home would now ideally benefit from cosmetic improvement / upgrading, yet OFFERS EXCELLENT POTENTIAL. Accommodation briefly comprises: Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Bathroom, Three First Floor Bedrooms and Front / Rear Gardens. EPC Rating E. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

£89,950

DUDLEY



Attingham Drive, Sovereign Heights

LOTS OF LIGHT & SPACE! - A beautifully presented, UPVC double glazed First Floor apartment occupying fine corner setting with open aspect to side and front. Entry phone system and the delightful accommodation includes: central reception hall, cloaks cupboard, 20' living room (with double French doors out to "balcony") and upgraded kitchen section having integrated hob/oven/extractor, two bedrooms, bathroom with white suite. Allocated parking, lawned grounds. EPC Rating: T.B.A. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

PRICE: £65,000

GOSPEL END VILLAGE, SEDGLEY



Penn Road

UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY! A distinctive, spacious, primarily UPVC double glazed & gas radiator centrally heated detached residence constructed to highly individual specification in late 1960's with magnificent garden extending to APPROXIMATELY 1/2 ACRE & offering tremendous potential. Accommodation includes entrance vestibule, reception hall, cloakroom, 27'8" lounge/dining room, 16'1" breakfast kitchen, 18'7" garden room. Three double bedrooms (one with shower room en suite), LARGE UNFINISHED LOFT CONVERSION (28'7" by probable 12'1" depth - 3 skylights), double garage, block paved parking/foregarden & potentially, a magnificent garden. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £327,500

MILKING BANK AREA



Berkswell Close



●●VENDORS OFFERING £5,500.00 TOWARDS STAMP DUTY IF ASKING PRICE MET●●
A quite exceptional, lavishly appointed & comprehensively upgraded, freehold, gas centrally heated & UPVC double glazed detached family home in short cul-de-sac just off Charleotte Drive. EXTREMELY SPACIOUS accommodation provides imposing reception hall, fitted cloakroom, elegant 17ft. lounge (with bay & 'limestone' overmantel & granite hearth), separate dining room with bow window, refitted breakfast kitchen with a fine range of 'Old English Cream' effect units & many integrated appliances, refitted utility room. Magnificent principal bedroom suite with many built-in units, a walk through 'dressing room section' with reapointed bathroom beyond. Three further bedrooms (second bedroom with shower room en suite & fitted wardrobes), reapointed bathroom, garage, alarm systems, delightful expertly tended/secluded rear garden. EPC rating D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £264,950

SEDGLEY



Southerndown Road, Brownsall Estate



A meticulously maintained, EXTENDED, and tremendously enhanced, Freehold, gas centrally heated & UPVC double glazed detached bungalow enviably situated on periphery of favoured development abutting on to open fields at rear, and within walking distance of so many amenities. Accommodation provides: 'L' shape reception hall, cloaks & airing cupboard, two double bedrooms (principal bedroom with "top quality" range of fitted units), tiled bathroom, lounge, extended dining room, recently refitted kitchen with a range of "Old English Cream" effect units, side through lobby. Garage, expertly tended landscaped rear garden. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £239,950

QUARRY BANK



NEW PRICE

Coppice Lane

This modern style, extended, UPVC Double Glazed, Gas Centrally Heated, FOUR BEDROOM DETACHED family home provides versatile living space, and is available with NO UPWARD CHAIN. The spacious property briefly comprises: Entrance Porch, Lounge, splendid re-fitted Kitchen with a fine range of units / integrated appliances, L-shaped Dining / Sitting Room, Guest WC, FOUR GOOD BEDROOMS (with En-Suite to Master), Re-fitted Bathroom with white suite, Garage, driveway and Rear Garden. EPC Rating D. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

£209,950

SEDGLEY



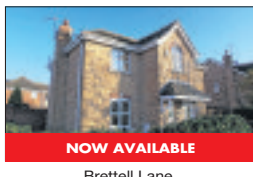
Setton Drive



Stylish, significantly enhanced, EXTENDED, and enlarged, Freehold, gas centrally heated & UPVC double glazed detached family home excellently situated overlooking countryside & within reasonable walking distance of Sedgley's Bull Ring, and all associated amenities. Superb accommodation includes: porch, reception hall, walk in store, 16' lounge, brick/UPVC double glazed CONSERVATORY, extended/refitted 14'8" breakfast kitchen with a fine range of units, further sitting/playroom with store & fitted cloakroom. FOUR BEDROOMS, recently reapointed bathroom with a stylish white suite. Ample parking to front, neat/secluded rear garden. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £214,950

BRIERLEY HILL



NOW AVAILABLE

Brettell Lane
This MODERN STYLE, UPVC double glazed, gas centrally heated, FOUR BEDROOM detached family home is WELL PRESENTED THROUGHOUT, and is WELL WORTHY OF INTERNAL INSPECTION. The SPACIOUS PROPERTY briefly comprises: entrance hall, through lounge, dining room, kitchen, guest w.c., utility, four good bedrooms with en-suite to master, bathroom with white suite, driveway, garage, and a neat garden to the rear. EPC Rating C. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265.

£179,950

SEDGLEY



Queens Road

NO UPWARD CHAIN. A Freehold, gas centrally heated, & UPVC double glazed detached most conveniently situated in a well regarded district within reasonable walking distance of Sedgley's Bull Ring, and all associated amenities. Accommodation includes: reception hall, cloaks, fitted cloakroom, lounge, dining room, kitchen, Three bedrooms, bathroom, Garage, secluded rear garden. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £174,950

WOODSETTON



High Ardal Drive

SIGNIFICANT POTENTIAL! A comparatively spacious, gas centrally heated & either aluminium or UPVC double glazed detached for modernisation excellently situated at head of favoured cul-de-sac. Accommodation includes: glazed entrance porch, reception hall, fitted cloakroom, 23' through living/dining room, breakfast kitchen. Three generous bedrooms, bathroom, Garage, gardens. EPC Rating: C. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £172,500

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SEDGLEY



Kings Road



OPEN DAY FOR VIEWINGS ON SATURDAY 2ND AUGUST FROM 1.30 PM - 2.30 PM.

TREMENDOUS POTENTIAL! A traditional freehold, gas centrally heated (combi boiler) and primarily uPVC double glazed detached house of character with many fine period features but now requiring sympathetic updating. Situated within level walking distance of Sedgley's bullring with a LARGE GARDEN. Accommodation provides porch, imposing reception hall, cloak, sitting room, pantry, living room, kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom, potential garage space (approx 9'4" width) gardens. EPC Rating E. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £165,000

SEDGLEY



Dormston Drive

Most conveniently situated in a "backwater" within walking distance of the Bull Ring, a Freehold, gas radiator centrally heated, and uPVC double glazed detached comprising: entrance hallway, cloak, 24'5" through living/dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms (all with fitted wardrobes), bathroom. Extensive block paving secluded "low maintenance" rear garden. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £162,950

SEDGLEY



Claremont Road

Enviably situated in "tree lined" road within walking distance of the Bull Ring, an ENLARGED, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed semi detached of character (with period features remaining) that has been conscientiously maintained over the years but offers further potential. Accommodation briefly comprises: reception hall, dining room with bay, pantry, sitting room with bay, utility room, and kitchen. Three bedrooms (two with bay windows), tiled bathroom. Large garage (16'4" x 9'4"). Lengthy secluded rear garden. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £159,950

SEDGLEY



Richmond Road

A delightful, significantly modernised & ENLARGED, gas centrally heated, semi detached enviable situated within walking distance of the Bull Ring, and all associated amenities. The property has been significantly upgraded and briefly comprises: imposing reception hall (8'4" ceiling height), sitting room with bay & feature 'Living Flame' gas fire, separate dining room with patio doors to garden, extended/refitted kitchen with a fine range of 'best' effect units, and various integrated appliances, pantry. Three bedrooms, reappointed bathroom with a white suite, and successful loft conversion fourth bedroom (building regulations secured with sky lights. Parking, secluded/battered rear garden. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £159,950

DUDLEY



NEW PRICE

The Broadway

A highly individual FREEHOLD gas centrally heated, combi boiler, and double glazed (as seen) detached popular convenient district. The redecorated and refreshed accommodation includes entrance vestibule, reception hall, 22'4" through living/dining room, upgraded kitchen, Three GENEROUS BEDROOMS, reappointed/re tiled bathroom with white suite, reappointed/separate toilet, garage, garden EPC Rating E. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £159,950, NOW £154,950

COSELEY



Kenelm Road

ABSOLUTELY STUNNING! A comprehensively modernised, significantly EXTENDED, gas centrally heated & mostly uPVC double glazed semi detached in magnificent order throughout. The first quality accommodation includes: reception hall, store, sitting room with bay, tremendous 22'7" x 16'6" "hub of the house" dining kitchen with large double glazed "clear storey-skylight" and an extensive range of units (wood burning stove), utility room, lengthy office (with sky lights), and a shower room. Three bedrooms, reappointed bathroom with a white suite. Boarded/plastered roof space with sky light. Off road parking, substantial secure brick store, and a delightful sheltered well cultivated rear garden. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £155,000

WOODSETTON



Parkes Lane

An EXTENDED, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed semi detached set in quiet "backwater" being close to so many amenities. Conscientiously maintained accommodation includes: entrance hallway, lounge, extended dining room, extended 'L' shape breakfast kitchen, Three bedrooms, upgraded bathroom. Garage (presently sub-divided to form a store, and a further utility room with toilet off). Low maintenance gardens, and tremendous DISTANT VIEWS from the rear. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £151,950

KINGSWINFORD



Rangeways Road

Enjoying a gently elevated position within this popular tree-lined address upon 'High Acres', the SUCCESSFULLY EXTENDED MODERN SEMI-DETACHED HOME is enhanced by a DELIGHTFUL CONSERVATORY and has been thoughtfully improved to offer SPACIOUS accommodation including: Reception Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, CONSERVATORY EXTENSION, fitted Kitchen, Utility / Laundry Room, TWO GOOD SIZED FITTED DOUBLE BEDROOMS (originally three bedrooms), master room having DRESSING AREA, Shower Room, separate W.C. GAS CENTRAL HEATING AND UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING. With DRIVEWAY leading to the Garage and to the rear enjoying an ATTRACTIVELY LANDSCAPED REAR GARDEN. EPC Rating: D. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

Offers in the region of £149,950

TIPTON



Wrens Avenue 'Foxyards'

An attractive, spacious, conscientiously maintained, Freehold, gas centrally heated & double glazed semi detached of character in favoured district. The accommodation provides: entrance porch, imposing reception hall (8'5" ceiling height), sitting room with bay, separate dining room, kitchen, pantry. Three bedrooms, bathroom. Garage, good sized garden. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £149,950

DUDLEY



The Broadway

An EXTENDED, spacious, Freehold, gas centrally heated & primarily uPVC double glazed semi detached occupying WIDER THAN AVERAGE PLOT in popular neighbourhood. Accommodation comprises: enlarged porch, reception hall, dining room, lounge, extended 18'2" kitchen, and the former garage has been sub-divided to create a utility room & fitted shower room (access through hall). Three generous bedrooms, bathroom. Extensive parking (11' width from former garage gable to boundary at side). EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £149,950

DUDLEY



Harvard Close

This modern style, uPVC double glazed, gas centrally heated, three bedroom detached family is situated in a cul-de-sac location and is available with NO UPWARD CHAIN. Accommodation briefly comprises: entrance porch, hall, lounge, kitchen, conservatory, guest w.c. Three bedrooms (with en suite to master), bathroom with white suite. Garage, driveway and rear garden. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £159,950, NOW £149,950

TIPTON



Sedgley Road West

A LARGE, traditional, gas centrally heated semi detached family home with an imposing reception hall, sitting room (with double doors out to garden), dining with bay (open fireplace), tremendous 21'10" breakfast kitchen with a range of 'ikea' high gloss white finish units (& double french doors out to garden), cellarette; to the first floor, there is a landing with three generous bedrooms, bathroom & separate toilet; to the second floor, further landing with good size fourth bedroom. Block paved parking to front & delightful, sheltered/secluded rear garden. EPC Rating: C. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £142,500

UPPER GORNAL



Goodrich Mews

Constructed by Taylor Wimpey circa 2009 and covered by remainder of NHBC guarantees an exceptionally stylish already significantly enhanced gas centrally heated and uPVC double glazed intermediate home upon a well established highly regarded development. Delightful accommodation includes reception hall, fitted cloakroom, breakfast kitchen with a fine range of upgraded units with various integrated appliances (living/dining room) THREE BEDROOMS (principle bedroom with en suite) bathroom parking for two vehicles to front and sheltered/ secluded level rear garden. EPC Rating: C. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £128,750

LOWER GORNAL



Ellowes Road

Conscientiously maintained, comparatively spacious, Freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed semi detached former police house in established district. Accommodation includes: reception hall, dining room, lounge, upgraded kitchen with a range of 'oak' effect units, lobby, store, separate w.c. Three generous bedrooms, bathroom. Gated driveway to a large garden, TREMENDOUS POTENTIAL. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £127,750

LOWER GORNAL



NEW PRICE

Lawnswood Road, Thornleigh

NO UPWARD CHAIN. A gas centrally heated, uPVC double glazed semi detached with potential excellently situated at head of cul-de-sac with larger than average garden and good distant views. Accommodation includes enlarged entrance vestibule, reception hall, enlarged kitchen, L shape living/dining room, three bedrooms, bathroom, shortened garage, extensive block paved front garden, wide secluded rear garden. EPC Rating: C. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £132,000, NOW £127,950

TIPTON



Lea Green Avenue, Foxyards

An exceptionally stylish, EXTENDED, Freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed semi detached that has been "transformed" by present vendors over the past 2 years to a stunning specification. Tremendous accommodation includes: enlarged 17 ft reception hall, extended 'L' shape 17 ft living/dining room, enlarged/refitted kitchen with a fine range of units & various integrated appliances. Two double bedrooms, reappointed bathroom with a contemporary style white suite with chrome detailing, folding loft ladder to extensive ROOF SPACE (14'1" x 10'4" with two velux sky lights). Shortened garage, block paved foregarden, garden. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £124,950

SEDGLEY,



Whitesmith Close, (off Mill Bank)

Conveniently situated within walking distance of the Bull Ring, and all associated amenities; a comparatively spacious, gas radiator centrally heated & double glazed First Floor apartment forming part of a small development managed by the Accord Housing Association for owners aged 55 or over with warden facilities. Stair lift. Accommodation includes: L shaped lounge/dining room (with patio doors out to a balcony), kitchen, inner hallway, two double bedrooms (one with wardrobe), two storage cupboards, and a reappointed shower room (former bathroom) with a white suite. Allocated parking, communal grounds. EPC Rating: C. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £115,000

DUDLEY



Myrtle Road

SUBSTANTIAL GARAGE TO REAR! With no upward chain a significantly improved freehold, gas centrally heated and uPVC double glazed and 'starter home' in established/convenient neighbourhood. Accommodation provides reception hall, shower/wet room, lounge, transverse dining kitchen with a fine range of upgraded units, uPVC part double glazed conservatory, 3 bedrooms, separate toilet, gated driveway to the garage, gardens. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £107,950

COSELEY



Kipling Avenue

Set in quiet/safe cul-de-sac just off Hurst Road; a Freehold, part gas radiator centrally heated & either uPVC or aluminium double glazed semi detached requiring some sympathetic updating. Accommodation provides: entrance porch, reception hall, lounge, transverse dining kitchen. Three bedrooms, bathroom, separate toilet. Garage, utility room, separate w.c. sheltered/secluded rear garden and block paved driveway to front. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating: E. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £119,950, NOW £105,000

UPPER GORNAL



Tudor Vale

TREMENDOUSLY STYLISH! Superb, exceptionally well presented tremendously improved gas centrally heated and uPVC double glazed intermediate 'starter home' at head of cul-de-sac. Superb accommodation provides lounge, inner lobby with fitted cloak room, upgraded transverse breakfast kitchen with fine range of units, two double bedroom (one with cupboard the other with wardrobes) reappointed/refitted bathroom with white contemporary suite, off road parking at front and landscape secluded rear garden. EPC Rating: C. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £100,000

COSELEY



Cox Road

A comparatively spacious, freehold, significantly modernised & improved. RECENTLY UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED gas centrally heated (combi boiler) semi detached in relatively quiet "backwater". Accommodation includes reception hall, lounge, upgraded breakfast kitchen with a fine range of "light beech" effect units & a large cupboard off. Two double bedrooms, bathroom with white suite & a shower, separate toilet, further stores. GARAGE (rear vehicular access), neat gardens. EPC Rating: C. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £104,950, NOW £99,950

DUDLEY WOOD



Dalvine Road

Enjoying a position within this established address, this WELL ARRANGED, TRADITIONAL, TWO BEDROOM SEMI-DETACHED HOME should interest first time buyers and affords a layout with GAS CENTRAL HEATING AND DOUBLE GLAZING to comprise: hall, sitting room, dining room, kitchen, TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS and bathroom. Walled front, gates to Block Paved Drive and with lengthy, level garden with southerly aspect. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating: D. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265.

Offers in the region of £89,950

LOWER GORNAL



Orchard Grove

A Freehold, gas centrally heated (recent combi boiler), and uPVC double glazed and "starter home" within reasonable distance of the village, and all associated amenities. Offering potential for further improvements, the accommodation comprises: reception hall, lounge, kitchen, dining room (with wood burner), THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom. Gardens. EPC Rating: C.. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £89,950

WOODSETTON



Roper Walk

A uPVC double glazed, gas centrally heated (combi boiler), first floor flat enviable situated adjacent to and over looking adopted open space with DISTANT VIEWS. Accommodation comprises reception hall, store, 17'3" living/dining room, breakfast kitchen, double bedroom with wardrobes, bathroom, shared grounds and allocated parking. EPC Rating: D.. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £71,950

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EPC: D

Sedgley Crowesbridge Mews

- Three bed detached property
- Fitted kitchen
- Conservatory
- Bathroom with shower
- Guest W/C
- Utility room

£700pcm



EPC: D

Sedgley Rowan Road

- Two bed family home
- Freshly decorated throughout
- GCH & DG
- Dining kitchen with cooker
- Available immediately

£495pcm



EPC: D

Kingswinford Rages Road

- Charming one bed ground floor studio flat
- Lounge with feature fireplace
- Unfurnished
- Bathroom with shower cubicle
- Double glazing

£350pcm



EPC: TBC

Tivdale Elm Terrace

- Two bed semi
- Freshly decorated and refurbished
- GCH and DG
- Newly fitted kitchen with new appliances
- Bath and shower facilities

£490pcm



EPC: D

West Bromwich Greets Green Road

- Two bed terraced house
- GCH
- Double glazing
- Modern kitchen
- Bathroom with shower
- Yard storage shed

£475pcm

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EPC: TBC

Tipton Scott Street

- Two bed ground floor apartment
- Lounge
- Fitted kitchen
- Master bedroom with en-suite
- Allocated parking
- Tipton office

£475pcm



EPC: B

Tipton Gough Drive

- One bed ground floor apartment
- Fully fitted kitchen with appliances
- Bedroom with fitted wardrobes
- Fitted bath and shower
- Allocated parking

£425pcm



EPC: D

Tipton Thunderbolt Way

- One bed ground floor apartment
- Lounge/kitchen
- Double glazed
- Allocated parking

£395pcm

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NEW

NO UPWARD CHAIN

45 GERVASE DRIVE £269,950

- DUDLEY**
- Detached residence with three bedrooms
 - Recently re-fitted bathroom
 - Separate shower room
 - Spacious extended accommodation
 - SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING TBC



NEW

NO UPWARD CHAIN

10 RANSCOMBE DRIVE, LOWER GORNAL O/A £235,000

- Individually built & designed modern detached bungalow
- Bedroom one, bedroom two/dining room
- Spacious lounge and conservatory
- Wide and large garden plot in a quiet backwater of Gornal Wood
- SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D



NEW

NO UPWARD CHAIN

50 CLAREMONT ROAD Offers Over £199,950

- SEDGLEY**
- Traditional style detached house
 - Three bedrooms & recently re-fitted bathroom
 - Extended kitchen & downstairs shower room
 - Attractively landscaped westerly facing rear garden
 - SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING E



NEW

NO UPWARD CHAIN

35 FOXLANDS DRIVE, LOWER GORNAL £195,000

- Detached bungalow with a corner position
- Well presented & attractive accommodation
- Two bedrooms, separate wc off bedroom two
- Conservatory, additional parking suitable for caravan
- SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D



NEW

NO UPWARD CHAIN

22 WENDOVER ROAD £162,500

- ETTINGSHALL PARK**
- Semi detached house with three bedrooms
 - Well presented & improved accommodation
 - Through lounge & dining room
 - Larger than average laid out rear garden
 - SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING TBC



REDUCED

NO UPWARD CHAIN

35 TURL'S HILL ROAD OIRO £149,950

- SEDGLEY**
- Semi detached house with three bedrooms
 - Attractively presented accommodation
 - Conservatory & side utility area
 - Attractively landscaped level private rear garden
 - SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D



NO UPWARD CHAIN

33 KIPLING ROAD £139,950

- LOWER GORNAL**
- Semi detached house
 - Three bedrooms
 - General updating works needed
 - Excellent opportunity for discerning purchaser
 - SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D



2 CAUSEWAY ROAD O/A £134,950

- COSELEY**
- Link detached house
 - Three bedrooms
 - Well presented accommodation
 - Conservatory at rear
 - SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D



17 BUTTERWORTH CLOSE £129,950

- COSELEY**
- Semi detached house
 - Three bedrooms
 - Well maintained & extended
 - Lounge/dining room, utility room & study
 - SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING E



NO UPWARD CHAIN

FLAT 4 REGENCY COURT £129,950

- DUDLEY**
- Modern first floor flat
 - Two bedrooms, ensuite shower room
 - Spacious lounge
 - Communal grounds, lift to all floors
 - SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING C



NO UPWARD CHAIN

127 SHAW ROAD OIRO £125,000

- COSELEY**
- Semi detached house
 - Three bedrooms
 - Ideal location
 - Good sized rear garden
 - SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING C



NEW

37 VICTORIA ROAD O/A £125,000

- TIPTON**
- Improved semi detached house
 - Three bedrooms
 - Gas central heating & double glazing
 - Ample off street parking
 - SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING TBC



REDUCED

NO UPWARD CHAIN

21 HALL STREET OIRO £123,500

- CRADLEY HEATH**
- Modern semi detached house
 - Three bedrooms
 - Well proportioned accommodation
 - Gas central heating
 - SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D



£1000 PAID TOWARDS
PURCHASER'S LEGAL FEES

15 NEW ROWLEY ROAD O/A £115,000

- DUDLEY**
- Edwardian end terraced house
 - Two bedrooms & attic room
 - Deceptively spacious
 - Majority gas central heating
 - DUDLEY OFFICE - EPC RATING E



130 MOUNT ROAD O/A £115,000

- LANESFIELD**
- Traditional semi detached house
 - Three bedrooms
 - Larger than average plot
 - Large private rear garden
 - SEDGLEY OFFICE - EPC RATING D



NEW

NO UPWARD CHAIN

47 NORBURY CRESCENT £109,950

- LANESFIELD**
- Extended semi detached house
 - Three bedrooms
 - Extended dining room, spacious living room
 - Ground floor wet room, first floor bathroom
 - SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING TBC



9 PRIORS MILL £104,950

- UPPER GORNAL**
- Mid terraced house
 - Two bedrooms plus attic room
 - Breakfast kitchen
 - Double glazing & gas central heating
 - SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D



39 BIRMINGHAM NEW ROAD £99,950

- TIPTON**
- Semi detached house
 - Partial gas central heating
 - Extended accommodation
 - SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D



NO UPWARD CHAIN

218 ASHENHURST ROAD £96,000

- DUDLEY**
- Semi detached house
 - Two bedrooms
 - In need of modernisation
 - In-fitted kitchen & shower room
 - SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING F

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Dudley Office
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Jon Stanier

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PENSNETT SWAN STREET

Pleasantly situated in this popular and very convenient address this Modern 3 Bed Semi provides spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and double glazed accom which although requires certain upgrading and improvement provides tremendous FURTHER POTENTIAL for the young family. NO UPWARD CHAIN. Hall, Lounge, Separate Dining Room, Kitchen, 3 very well proportioned Bedrooms, attractive refitted Bathroom, larger than average side Garage, useful Utility Room, pleasant rear Gardens and Driveway to front. EPC-E

Offers around £122,500



BRIERLEY HILL DELPH ROAD

An attractively presented, neatly kept 2 Bedroomed Intermediate Terrace providing deceptively spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the First Time buyer or young family in this popular and very convenient address. Briefly comprises:- Attractive Lounge, STYLISH LARGE REFITTED DINING KITCHEN with built in oven and hob, 2 Well Proportioned Bedrooms, ATTRACTIVE BATHROOM WITH SHOWER and enclosed Rear Gardens.EPC-A/B/C

Offers around £109,950



BROCKMOOR WILSON ROAD

This attractively presented, neatly improved 3 Bed Semi is pleasantly situated in this popular and convenient cul-de-sac and provides deceptively spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the young family or First Time buyer. Hall, stylish Lounge, attractively re-styled Dining Kitchen with built in oven and hob, 3 well proportioned Bedrooms, SUPERB REFITTED BATHROOM, pleasant lawned rear Gardens and driveway parking to front. EPC-E

Offers around £94,950



BRIERLEY HILL MOOR STREET

Pleasantly situated with MUCH LARGER THAN AVERAGE GARDENS at the front of this ever popular address, this attractively presented Modern 2 Bedroomed End Townhouse provides well planned deceptively spacious UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the First Time Buyer, young family or INVESTOR. Briefly comprises :- Hall, Lounge, Dining Kitchen, 2 good sized Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, pleasant lawned gardens to rear and side and car parking space immediately to rear. EPC-E

Offers around £94,950



CRADLEY COLLEY LANE

This unique individually designed One Bedroom Centrally HEATED and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom 'tucked away' in this convenient address and reached by a private driveway. Ideally suited to the Professional Singles or INVESTOR. Briefly comprises :- Hall, Open Plan Lounge with Fitted Kitchen with built-in oven and hob, Bedroom, Shower Room and Blocked Paved Parking to the Front. EPC-D

Offers around £79,950



WITHYMOORE VILLAGE TURNERS LANE

This superb, extended Semi provides deceptively spacious Gas CH and Upvc DG accom ideal for the discerning young family, enhanced by a Snooker/Playroom Room to the rear (equally suited to a variety of uses subject to planning act), Porch, Hall, attractive Lounge, refitted Dining Kitchen, Laundry/Utility, Downs W.C., Conservatory, 2 good Bedrooms (Master converted to incorporate Bedroom 3), sumptuous Bathroom with shower, Side Garage, enclosed rear Garden and splendid impressed paved driveway providing parking for 4/5 cars EPC-D

Offers around £174,950



BROCKMOOR HIGH STREET

This well maintained Modern 3 Bed Semi-Detached is pleasantly and very conveniently situated in this popular address and provides well planned GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the First Time Buyer or young family with NO UPWARD CHAIN. Briefly comprises:- Porch, Hall, Spacious Lounge, Sep Dining Room, kitchen with built-in oven, hob and fridge, Conservatory, 3 well Proportioned Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Large Garage with rear vehicular access and Pleasant Rear Gardens. EPC-D

Offers around £129,950



BROCKMOOR HULLAND PLACE

An attractively presented 2 Bed End Townhouse providing well planned GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the First Time Buyer or young family and is pleasantly situated in this ever popular Cul-de-sac backing on to the grounds of Brockmoor First School. Attractive Lounge, restyled Dining Kitchen with built in oven and hob, 2 well proportioned Bedrooms, fitted Bathroom with shower, side Garage, Driveway and pleasant lawned Rear Gardens with Southerly facing aspect. EPC-D

Offers around £117,950



BRIERLEY HILL WELLS ROAD

This attractively presented, much improved 2 Bed Semi-Detached provides deceptively spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the discerning First Time Buyer or young family and is pleasantly situated just into this ever popular address. Briefly comprises :- Hall, spacious Lounge, fitted Dining Kitchen, 2 good sized Bedrooms, refitted Bathroom with shower, pleasant lawned rear Gardens with private outlook and Driveway to front. EPC-C

Offers around £99,950



BROCKMOOR CAMPBELL STREET

Pleasantly situated in this popular and convenient "backwater", this 2 Bed End Terrace provides deceptively spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the First Time Buyer or young family and is available with NO UPWARD CHAIN. Briefly comprises: Attractive Lounge, separate Dining Room, stylish fitted "L" shaped Kitchen, 2 excellent sized Bedrooms, fitted Bathroom with shower and pleasant mature low lawned rear Garden with Useful Store. EPC-E

Offers around £94,950



DUDLEY STOURBRIDGE ROAD

This delightfully presented, much improved 2 bed Inner Terrace provides deceptively spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the discerning First Time buyer or young family and is very conveniently located close to RUSSELLS HALL HOSPITAL and Dudley Town Centre. Briefly comprises:- Hall, Attractive Lounge, Attractive RE-FITTED DINING KITCHEN with built-in oven and hob, Rear Lobby, 2 Good Bedrooms, Superb REFITTED BATHROOM with shower cubicle and good sized lawned Rear Gardens. EPC-D

Offers around £79,950



BRIERLEY HILL FOXDALE DRIVE

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This superbly presented 2 Bed Second floor flat provides outstanding accom with UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING and is ideal for First Time buyers or professional couples. Must be seen to be fully appreciated and includes :- Secure Main Entrance, Hall, spacious Lounge with Dining Area, SUPERB REFITTED KITCHEN with built in oven, hob, washing machine and fridge freezer, 2 Bedrooms, SUMPTUOUS REFITTED BATHROOM with shower, superb cubicle and good sized lawned Rear Gardens.EPC-D

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WOLLASTON LARKHILL ROAD

FOR SALE £149,950
Refurbished property finished to a very high standard. Comprises of: Entrance Hall, Ground Floor WC, Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom. Benefits include: Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Front & Rear Gardens, GARAGE.



WORDSLEY STABLE LODGE

FOR SALE £124,950
Impressive, well presented property in private courtyard. Comprising of: Entrance Hall, Large Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen/ Diner, One Bedroom, Bathroom. Benefits include: Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Off Road Parking



STOURBRIDGE EVOLUTION

FOR SALE £99,950
Spacious Modern Second Floor Flat, in Good Location. Comprising of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms with En suite to Master Bedroom, Bathroom. Benefits include Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Allocated Parking



LOWER GORNAL TEMPLE STREET

FOR SALE £99,950
Character Freehold Mid Terrace Property with No Upward Chain. To include: Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Family Bathroom. Benefits from: Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Long Rear Garden.



STOURBRIDGE WILDACRES

£660 pcm*
Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished



WORDSLEY BUSH ROAD

£110 per week*
First Floor Maisonette, Entrance, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished



KINGSWINFORD MANCROFT CLOSE

£775 pcm*
Semi-Detached House, Entrance, Large Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Cloakroom, Conservatory, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Off Road Parking, Single Garage, Gardens to Front & Rear, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing.



KINGSWINFORD GREENCROFT

£575 pcm*
Bungalow, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Front & Rear Gardens, Parking for 2 cars, Unfurnished



AMBLECOTE KING WILLIAM STREET

£380 pcm*
SHARED HOUSE, Ground Floor: Communal Kitchen and Bathroom with shower, Two Bedrooms, First Floor: Two Bedrooms, Office, Communal Toilet, Part Furnished, Gas Central Heating, Communal Gardens, Rent to include utility bills.



KINGSWINFORD GRANTLEY CRESCENT

£825 pcm*
Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Dining Area, Cloakroom, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished



BRIERLEY HILL THE BREEZE

£550 pcm*
4th Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Allocated Parking, Communal Gardens, NO PETS/ NO DSS



DUDLEY SALOP STREET

£385 pcm*
Ground Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, Bathroom with Shower, One Bedroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, DSS considered. No Pets.



LYE TALBOT STREET

£410 pcm*
Modern Ground Flat, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Double Glazing, Off Road Parking, Unfurnished.



BRIERLEY HILL ADELAIDE STREET

£495 pcm*
Terrace Property, Two Reception Rooms, Refitted Kitchen, Ground Floor Bathroom, Two First Floor Bedrooms, Loft Room, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Rear Garden, Unfurnished



STOURBRIDGE RIDGE GROVE

£595 pcm*
Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Cloakroom, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Gardens.



BRIERLEY HILL DADFORD VIEW

£450 pcm*
Cluster Style Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Unfurnished, Allocated Parking, Front & Side Garden, Gas Central Heating, DSS considered



SWINDON HIGH STREET

£495 pcm*
First Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Parking at Rear



KINGSWINFORD MANOR PARK

£575 pcm*
Semi-Detached House, Entrance Hall, Lounge with feature fireplace, Fitted Kitchen, Cloakroom, Three Bedrooms, Shower Room, Off Road Parking, Gardens to Front & Rear, Central Heating, Double Glazing, Alarm System



LYE STOURBRIDGE ROAD

£350 to £375 pcm*
Choice of Ground or First Floor Flats, Entrance, Lounge, Kitchen, Bathroom, Bathroom or Shower Room, Parking at rear, Communal Grounds, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, NO PETS/NO DSS.



TIVIDALE ASHTREE ROAD

£395 pcm*
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PENSNETT HEYDON ROAD

£595 pcm*
Semi-Detached House, Lounge, Kitchen, WC, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front & Rear Garden, Off Road Parking



HALESOWEN BLOOMFIELD ST WEST

£525 pcm*
Terrace Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Rear Garden



HALESOWEN ATTWOOD STREET

£525 pcm*
Terrace Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Double Glazed, Gas Central Heating, Unfurnished, Rear Garden



UPPER GORNAL HILL STREET

£400 pcm*
Ground Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, Bedroom, Bathroom with Shower, Parking for 1 Car, Gardens Front & Rear, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished

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Deception in the best way

By Graham Breeze

The new Citroen C4 Picasso is one of the most deceiving cars on the road today.

Outwardly the Picasso Exclusive+ e-HDi looks a neat and compact model on 17" alloys, but the cleverly designed exterior hides a benchmark-setting interior space and massive boot.

There's no doubting that this Picasso is the latest incarnation of the company's bold tradition of MPVs but by using PSA Peugeot Citroen's EMP2 platform the company has come up with something very different on the inside.

And the innovations doesn't stop with design either because the test model could top 1187mph and race to 62mph in 11.8 seconds yet still record combined fuel figures of 70.6mpg and CO2 emissions of only 105g/km.

Flexible

That means you may no road tax and can claim a benefit in kind rating of 17 per cent.

The four cylinder, stop/start, 115hp engine delivers impressively flexible performance, so you don't have to work the engine hard to make decent progress.

But the automatic model on test would not have been my personal choice. After a week behind the wheel I was still struggling to come to terms with the gear shift control which sits awkwardly on the dash behind the steering wheel.

The automatic gear change was too

clunky for me, even when using the steering wheel paddles the gear change was too evident.

The steering is light and easy around town providing just enough reassurance at motorway speeds, despite a little bit of rear-end movement in tight bends.

The test car came with cruise control, collision alert, park assist and sensors, reversing camera and a bloody annoying lane-change alert system which I just couldn't fathom how to switch off.

The fascia is made of strong and attractive stuff and Citroen have gone down the road of providing all the driver information on a very neat colour screen, which I found much easier to manipulate than many I have tried recently.

Stability

Citroen has paid their usual levels of attention to safety and you get stability control and all-round curtain airbags, which has helped the model achieve the maximum five stars in Euro NCAP tests.

Like most rivals, it has an engine immobiliser, deadlocks and locking wheel nuts to help fend off thieves.

The huge boot swallowed two sets of golf clubs and trolleys while the three comfortable rear seats can be folded or moved back and forth to suit just about every need.

The fact that all three of these seats come with Isofix child-seat mountings adds to the practicality, and there's enough head- and legroom for six-footers.

Every C4 Picasso comes with alloy wheels, Bluetooth and a six-speaker stereo with a USB socket.



'The cleverly designed exterior hides a benchmark interior space.'

A digital radio is standard from the second trim level upwards, and range-topping models have everything from adaptive cruise control to a front passenger's seat that reclines like an old-school business-class chair.

The leather covered steering wheel adjusts neatly for rake and height and the half

leather seats are an attractive and particularly strong feature of this model.

The C4 Picasso Exclusive + e-HDi 115 ETG6 that was on test would set you back £24,455 but with metallic paint, park assist, Xenon headlights, security pack and space saver spare wheel that mounts up to £23,550.

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Boost for younger drivers

Cash-strapped young drivers rejoice – Vauxhall is to offer drivers between 18 and 20 one year's insurance cover for a one-off payment of £99.

To qualify, you'll need to opt for one of Vauxhall's Corsa Excite or Limited Edition models.

The car maker is teaming up with insurance provider ingenie, and each car is fitted with 'black box' technology which monitors driving style, including

speed, acceleration, braking and cornering.

As an added bonus, to reward good driving, each driver can earn the entire cost of the insurance back with good driving.

Score

That's because every 10 days, or 40 miles, ingenie will provide the driver with a score based on how well they are driving, along with feedback messages in a smartphone app on how to improve, and how much money

they're on track to save. After every three months, an overall score is provided and money can be reclaimed.

Commenting on the promotion, Mark Pinkney, Vauxhall's marketing programmes manager, said: "This is groundbreaking news for young drivers, some of whom could still be paying upwards of £2,000 for insurance when they're 18. We wanted to provide young drivers who buy their cars through Vauxhall retailers with affordable insurance to help them get on the road."

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Fuel consumption figures for the Civic 1.6i-DTEC Black Special Edition in mpg (l/100km): Urban 70.6 (4.0), Extra Urban 85.6 (3.3), Combined 78.5 (3.6). CO₂ emissions: 94 g/km. Fuel consumption figures sourced from official EU-regulated laboratory test results, are provided for comparison purposes & may not reflect real-life driving experience.
Model Shown: Civic 1.6i-DTEC Black Special Edition in Crystal Black Pearl at £22,460 On The Road (OTR). Terms and Conditions: New retail Civic registered from 1 July 2014 to 30 September 2014. Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers and are at the promoter's absolute discretion. Civic Black Special Edition Honda Aspirations (PCP): Example shown based on Civic 1.6i-DTEC Black Special Edition in Crystal Black Pearl at £22,460 total cash price (and total amount payable) with 37 months 0% APR Representative (interest rate per annum 0% fixed) with £0 (0% deposit), £408.29 monthly payment, Guaranteed Future Value / Optional Final Payment of £7,761.73 annual mileage of 10,000 and excess mileage charge: 6p per mile. You do not have to pay the Final Payment if you return the car at the end of the agreement and you have paid all other amounts due, the vehicle is in good condition and has been serviced in accordance with the Honda service book and the maximum annual mileage has not been exceeded. Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. Credit provided by Honda Finance Europe Plc, 470 London Road, Slough, Berkshire SL3 8QY. Honda Finance Europe Plc is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority, Financial Services Register number 312541. The 5 Year Care Package includes: Servicing: All scheduled servicing, as detailed in the vehicles service book, will be covered for 5 years or 62,500 miles, whichever comes first. Warranty: In addition to the standard 3 year warranty the customer will receive a complimentary 2 year extended guarantee taking the warranty to 5 years or 90,000 miles, whichever comes first. Roadside Assist: In addition to the standard 3 years roadside assistance package the customer will receive complimentary HondaCare Assistance for a further 2 years, taking it to 5 years or 90,000 miles, whichever comes first. The 5 Year Care Package: The 5 Year Care Package is optional. It is being offered for £555 including VAT (usual value £1,845 including VAT, resulting in a £1,290 saving for the customer) and is available to finance or non-finance customers. Please note, should you sell the vehicle during the period of cover, the package remains with the vehicle.

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New-look Transit is putting on the style

By David Banner

When it comes to vans, one size most certainly doesn't fit all.

Van users have hugely diverse needs and the fragmentation of the van market into different size classes has provided manufacturers with the opportunity to really tailor vans to specific purposes.

Take the Ford Transit Courier (pictured). You used to know where you were with a Ford Transit. It was a big, blocky thing and it had all the sophistication of a stag weekend in Magaluf. Buyers loved it though. It was rugged, inexpensive and did the job. Now the Ford Transit is a brand that encompasses a number of different models.

It's a lucrative strategy too, with the upswing in commercial vehicles sales post-recession. Ford expects Transit range sales to grow to 400,000 units per year by 2016, well over 50 per cent more than its 2012 figure and key to that will be the smallest member of the Transit retinue, the Transit Courier.

Although you don't get any choice when it comes to body styles, you'll need to come to a decision about the oily bits under the bonnet. The Courier is available with highly-efficient diesel and petrol engines that target best-in-class fuel economy and offer Auto-Start-Stop on all units. Customers can choose between the Dagenham-built 1.5-litre 75PS and 1.6-litre 95PS Duratorq TDCi diesel engines, plus the tiny 1.0-litre 100PS EcoBoost petrol engine, the 'International Engine of the Year' 2012.

City vans need to do that seemingly impossible thing of being big on the inside but as small as is practicable outside, which is one reason why they all look much of a muchness, namely a cube and a bonnet with the marque's family face grafted on the front.

Flared

The Transit Courier doesn't deviate too far from this template although the steeply raked windscreen does give it more of a one-box look. Couple that with the typically hefty Ford front grille and some subtly flared wheel arches and it looks handsome. You could see a few of these being converted to neat-looking surf vans with the right wheels and paint.

But the Courier isn't just about looking good. It's also about making the working environment easy and hassle free. Get inside and you'll find well-sculpted front seats and a dashboard that wouldn't look out of place in a family car, nice use of metallic finishes, wheel-mounted audio controls and a centre console that's pretty close to what you'd get if you'd bought a new Fiesta. That's no real surprise as the Transit Courier rides on Ford's global B-segment chassis which underpins cars like the B-MAX, EcoSport and the Fiesta.

Luxury options include a voice-activated in-car connectivity system, a rear-view camera, easy fuel, speed limiter and standard electronic stability control), plus a class-leading variety of safety features. Perhaps the neatest optional touch though is the clever Ford Sync with Emergency Assistance set-up.

The Transit Courier delivers load volume of 2.3m3 with a standard full bulkhead and an overall length of 4.16 metres. Practically highlights include the longest-in-class load length at floor level of 1.62 metres, the best in class access width through sliding rear side doors, a full-height, full-width steel bulkhead (glazed or unglazed) and full compliance with DIN and ISO standards for load restraints.

With a generous load volume and maximum payload capacity of 660kg, the Transit Courier can accommodate a wide variety of cargo and equipment.

Attractive styling, great engines and a whole lot of consideration poured into making a small van work like a big 'un has resulted in what looks certain to be a sales winner. Buyers trust the Transit name and the Courier is going to do the brand no harm at all.

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NISSAN NOTE 1.4 N TEC + taxed, 12 months breakdown cover on a 12 plate, top of range with half leather seats, sat nav etc, 14,700 miles, super condition, must be seen **£7,750 ono.** 01902 331155.

PEUGEOT 307 CONVERTIBLE 2.0, 2004, leather interior, almost fsh. Immaculate. Call for more details, £1,850 o.n.o. 07455 022100.

RENAULT CLIO, 2003, 41,000 miles, silver, MoT, one owner, tax, full service history, great condition, £2,250 ono. 07896 346626.

SEAT IBIZA 2006, 45,000 miles, 12 months MoT, Tax end Sept, black, CL, good runner, £3,195. 07793 066778, Wolverhampton.

SUBARU LEGACY SPORTSWAGON 2009, 72,050 miles, excellent condition, diesel, black, fsh, long MoT, one owner, tax. **£7,500 ono.** 07973 909392.

VW GOLF SE 2003, 90,000 miles, silver, electric windows, air bag, air con, alarm, long MoT, auto, central locking, one owner, pas, diesel, tax. **£1,950 ono.** 01384 872648.

VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.9CDTI ELITE Superb family car, good condition. Vauxhall Roof Bars and Parrot Bluetooth. Vauxhall FSH, MoT till January 2015, Tax till March 2015. 60000 miles. **£6,250** 07814478766



cars under £1500

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

Classified Ads

ALFA ROMEO 147 T Spark Luso, 121k miles, black, very quick, 6 months tax and tested, lots of history. £1450 ono. 01952 750878.

BMW 520iSE R reg. MoT early Dec, 98k, Auto, excellent condition for year. £550. 01902 877102.

BMW 528i AUTO 1999, taxed, MoT, Family car for last 12 years, bargain £675. 07837 130333.

CITROEN XSARA PICASSO, 2002, red, electric windows, MoT, diesel, tax, stereo. £300. 07455 234623.

FORD FOCUS Ghia, 1998cc, 4dr saloon, 2001 reg, 117,000 miles, tax and MoT, £650 ono. 07915 615870.

FORD FUSION 2.03 plate, 1400 cc, recent cam belt, gold metallic colour, MoT 4/5, tax 9/14, any trial, £950 ono. 01384 864058.

FORD KA 1300 silver, colour coded, 73,000 miles, clean car, 2002, MoT 07/4/11, tax 10/14, any trial, £450. 01902 674562.

FORD KA 2002, tax, MoT, 62k, very clean car, £450. 07778 294979.

MAZDA MX5 SPORTS 1.6, J reg, low mileage, 11 months MoT, new hood (cost £350), reluctant sale, £650 ono. 07980 430350.

MERCEDES E220 CLASSIC 1994, long tax/MoT, auto, all electrics, 104k, 2 owners, CD changer, superb engine/box, 40mpg, black/grey, retired pensioner owner, bargain £825 ono. 07423 594894.

NISSAN MICRA 53 reg, 5 months tax, 11 months MoT, 3-dr, £750 ono. 07939 797979.

NISSAN PRIMA ESTATE, 2000, SE+, 70,000 miles only, blue, MoT, tax, top of the range, spares or repair, £400 ono. 07462 94607.

PEUGEOT 206 1.2 X reg, silver, lady owner, tax/MoT, 4dr, EW, EM, PAS, good condition £585. 01537 7153 or 07729 932157.

PEUGEOT 206 2000, Roland Garros, 5-dr, full glass roof, leather seats, EV, EM, CL, 69k, alloys, MoT March, £785. 07977 450865.

PEUGEOT 206 GTI, 2000 X reg, 120k miles, manual, MoT, alloys, new brakes, remote stereo, £595. 07360 398750.

PEUGEOT 306XS 1.4 1996, 73,000 Miles, blue, long MoT, tax SR new clutch n just serviced £375 ono. 07591 414111.

PEUGEOT 307 diesel, HDi, 2004, 73K, 5dr, silver, MoT, tax, FSH, 2 owners, good condition, £1,400. 07838 897643.

RENAULT MEGANE SCENIC SPORT 1.6, Y reg, 10 mths MoT, CD-Radio, Used daily, Many extras, £450. 07462 94607.

RENAULT MEGANE SCENIC SPORT 1.6, Y reg, 10 mths MoT, CD-Radio, Used daily, Many extras, £350. o.n.o. 07462 94607.

ROVER 75 1.8, 2000 X reg, 1 former owner, 27k from new, SH, £1,295. 01562 710299.

ROVER 75 1.8, 2000 X reg, 1 former owner, 27k from new, SH, £1,295. 01562 710299.

SUZUKI GRAND VITARA 1.6, full MoT, 2 months Tax, very good condition for year, serviced, regular. £1,285 ono. 07905 138674.

TOYOTA COROLLA 1.6 reg, 5dr, 1.4, low mileage, 1 female owner, £1,000 ono. Call 01902 835022.

VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.8, 07 reg, blue, 10 months MoT, reliable, very good condition, £1,500 ono. 07986 725648.

VW POLO 51 plate, 95,000 miles, Red, one owner, FSH, MoT Dec, £850. 01384 371153.

classic cars

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Private cash buyer.
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01630 652993.

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FORD 8 (model Y) 1936, nice condition, maroon and black, £3,800. Please ring for more details. 01902 341104. 07957 566423.

MG MIDGET 1500 1978, hard and soft top, 12 months MoT, 68k miles, tax, good condition, £2,800 ono. 07775 847334.

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APRILIA SR50R 2013, brought from new, great condition, 2,000 miles, £1,200 ono. 07961 931856.

PEUGEOT VIVACITY SCOOTER 50cc, 1999, full tax and MoT, good condition, £450 ono. 07440 089063.

SUZUKI GSX600 FV, 1997, MoT August, excellent condition, £800 or swap for low rider or bike and sidcar. 07913 209370.

YAMAHA R1, Super Original R1. Carburetor mode, 2001 Bike. Genuine 11,000 miles. 'Genuine callers only'. £2,995. 07710 175262

scrap vehicles

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accessories & services

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INDEPENDENT FORD SPECIALISTS All spares and repairs. Tel: 0121 5597625 / 07785 724167.

10 Local Information

personal

ALONE? OVER 35?
Introduction for Friendship/Companionship. Birmingham/West Midlands areas. Contact Jane Stephens for FREE details: 01432 355144 www.janestephensbureau.co.uk Est. 1977.

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

Harry Watton trading as Discount Driveways of 55 Blewitt Street, Pennsett, Brierley Hill DY5 4AN is applying for a licence to use Merry Hill Auto Centre Ltd, 415 Stourbridge Road, Brierley Hill DY6 1LB as an operating centre for ONE goods vehicle and NIL trailers.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harchells Lane, Leeds LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representatives must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

HILDA ROWLEY (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 30 Bristol Road Netherdon Dudley DY2 9SF, who died on 20/04/2014, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 10/10/2014, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

GEORGE GREEN LLP
195 High Street
Cradley Heath B64 5HW

NORMAN STANLEY ROBERTSON (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of New Bradley Hall Compton Drive Steam Road Kingswinford Brierley Hill DY6 9NP, who died on 16/12/2012, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 03/10/2014, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

ALKER BALL HEADLS
8 Walgate Wigan WN1 1JE

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES

For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to

Marie Hogg on

01902 713146

or email
marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk

(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

STRAIGHT LADY LOOKING FOR NEW FRIENDS

Male and female. I am a young late 50s, looking for friends for nights out, cinema, theatre, drinks, meals, must be a driver as well.

Box Number P19355, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

MALE 62

5ft 10ins, considered attractive, medium build, genuine, considerate, seeking lady similar age for friendship and general social outings.

Box Number P19363, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

general

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

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general

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Women seeking men

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.53 per minute plus network extras. Texts cost £1.50 per message sent.

FUN loving lady, likes most things in life, would like to meet fun loving man for possible romance. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4454362**

EUROPEAN beauty romantic, caring, attentive, looking for loving male to enjoy warm loving relationship with, call me to find out more. **ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413013**

MAUREEN, discreet sensual lady, 42yrs seeks daytime fun at her home. **ACA. Tel No: 0905 002 1961 Box No: 405297**

KAREN 34 blue/green eyed size 12 attractive brunette who loves pubs, cosy nights in, kids, seeking special honest guy/dad for poss ltr. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413005**

ROSA 27 sexy seniorita seeking older handsome prince charming to whisk me off my feet, enjoy fun times, improve my English and fall in love with. Age/race unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412927**

ANNA, busty mature lady seeks no strings discreet meetings with male any age or location. **Tel No: 0905 002 1955 Box No: 366019**

RITA attractive blonde with a very kind heart seeks special man to share my life with. Please get in touch if like me you are fed up with always being the single friend. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412987**

JAN 5ft8ins slim pretty lady in great shape, open-minded, laidback, GSOH, OHAC, many interests, WLTm someone for cuddling up with and to share good and bad times. **ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412931**

CHRISTINA, curvy beauty, 27yrs, own home, very very adventurous seeks no strings fun and frolics. Can accommodate and will answer all calls. **Tel No: 0905 002 1957 Box No: 410127**

ANN slim attractive N/S lady who is easy to get along with, looking for romantic interesting man for new adventures together, hopefully ltr. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412911**

JULIE loving, caring, honest, seeks real gent to share conversation and have a great time, friendship/relationship, who knows? **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412777**

SALLY stunning lady looking for dinner dates, partying and generally having a good time with generous man looking for his mojo! No strings, go on call. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412599**

DEBS petite attractive auburn haired, good listening, romantic, enjoys socialising, cosy nights in with Mr Right, seeking similar caring N/S single dad. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412387**

VICKY 37yr professional, mum to one, sensual and very attractive, looking for a real gent, tall, fit, sincere and passionate to enjoy each other's company. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411695**

SUSIE, married, adventurous/dominant lady, 38yrs, seeks discreet man any age/area for no strings fun. **Tel: 0905 002 1945 Box No: 412285**

JAN slim curvy professional, 47, N/S, seeks tall, slim male for full time vacancy with similar male who loves cuddles/kisses and bikes for romance. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412167**

ATTRACTIVE slim brunette, 47, N/S, seeks tall, slim male for a cut above the average relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412725**

KAREN pretty blonde, short in stature, big personality, keeps fit, loves dogs, seeking honest, caring male who can make me laugh. Nothing too serious just fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412377**

JEAN petite female who enjoys golf, days out, cosy evenings in, holidays, WLTm older male in his 50's with a good personality and big heart. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412359**

JULIE really fun loving slim pretty female 38 looking for nice guy to go out with, get to know and hopefully enjoy a relationship with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411517**

GWENDOLINE, honest, trustworthy, seeks caring gent who enjoys cinema, theatre, holidays and nights out for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412293**

DIANE voluptuous curvy and all woman, loves dancing, walking, cosy nights in, WLTm nice man for friendship, hopefully leading to something more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412321**

SARA bored blonde looking for single gents for fun, chats and meets, looking forward to hearing from you, don't be shy. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412055**

EMMA petite young looking 31yr old attractive single brunette, loves walking, talking, music, seeks honest romantic 30-40yrs. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412037**

ANNABELL 29 slim sophisticated well travelled interesting sensual fit brunette with lots to offer seeks older male to appreciate and treat me well. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412177**

Men seeking women

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.53 per minute plus network extras. Texts cost £1.50 per message sent.

LONELY male, disabled, would like to meet male or female for company. Likes animals, visiting historical places, karaoke. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4172884**

FUN loving easy going guy, 30, tall dark and handsome, looking for an older woman who likes good times and fun. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4453744**

MALE WLTm bear shaped lady, 50-65. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411109**

BLACK guy 68, feels 45, looks 40. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413375**

TALL Indian gent, 53, seeks sensual lady for friendship plus, interesting chap, discreet days in and nights out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413315**

JOHN 70, tall, slim, seeking female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413183**

GENT widower, late 60's, looks younger, GSOH, likes music, good food, country pursuits, seeks female, 50-60 for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413173**

Making Friends

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.53 per minute plus network extras. Texts cost £1.50 per message sent.

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Heathens hoping to hang on to form

CRADLEY look to continue their stunning run of form when they head to neighbours Stoke on Sunday (6pm).

They'll be without the services of Steve Worrall who is riding for Edinburgh in the Premier League Fours Championship and they will share his rides amongst his colleagues.

Skipper Paul Starke, who broke the Cradley track record at Monmore in last week's win over Coventry, is hoping looking to keep the momentum going.

"It was obviously a great night for me personally but for the team is was an important win as well.

"We wanted to set a precedent against a strong Coventry side, and I think that's what we did.

"It was a result which sent a message out to other teams, and I can't see many sides wanting to ride us at the moment the way we are going.

"Now we go to Stoke and hopefully we can just keep picking up those points."

Worrall, meanwhile, is delighted to be racing for the famous old club.

Cradley are next at Monmore on Tuesday week, August 12, when they face Mildenhall.

Skornicki is out for months

POPULAR Polish star Adam Skornicki won't race again this season.

Skornicki has been told he will need to use crutches until October after suffering a dislocated hip when racing for Birmingham in May.

Following the demise of the Brummies, he's been keeping in contact with parent club Wolverhampton.

Promoter Chris Van Straaten said: "Adam went to see a specialist with the hope of being given the all-clear.

"But a dislocated hip can be complicated and he's likely to be on crutches until October to keep as much weight off the hip as possible. I'm sure all Wolverhampton and Birmingham supporters wish him well."

Wood fail to make a mark against Tivis

Walsall Wood 0 Tivisdale 2

WOOD failed to score for the first time in six games as last season's Midland Alliance champions gained a well-deserved win putting two goals past the home side.

Walsall had the first goal threat in this pre-season friendly when on 10 minutes Danny McGhee got clear on the left, his cross was half cleared to Drew Aiton who was on the edge of the box.

His ball through the centre put Leon Taylor in on goal but under intense pressure his shot was easily saved by Tom Turner to keep the scoresheet clean for now.

Football

On 27 minutes Drew Aiton delivered a right wing free kick to the far post and diminutive Ryan Wood out-jumped Tivisdale's towering defenders to loop a header just too high.

A minute later McGhee broke onto a ball into the right of the box only to fire high and wide.

The visitors went ahead just past the half hour when Chris Field won the ball while playing wide on the right, he then crossed

the ball into the box for Mike Wardell to open the scoring and put Tivisdale ahead.

Eight minutes later a free kick wide left was fired into the near post by Danny Ashton, Mario Kisiel making a great save at the foot of the post to keep the ball out of the net.

A minute into the second half Danny Holgate slalomed through the Wood defence on the left of the box and it was down to skipper Lee Stretton to step in and save Wood with a superbly timed last-ditch tackle which stop the run of the play for Tivisdale.

Then on 55 minutes it looked promising

when Matt Jukes raced on to a ball over the Wood defence, but under pressure nothing came of it as he finished weakly.

Two minutes later a Wood defender totally misjudged the flight of the ball, Holgate racing into the right of the box to make no mistake as he fired the ball past the advancing Kisiel.

Then Ash Jackson crossed away on the right, his low, near post, cross was powered towards goal by a Karl Edwards' diving header which led to Kisiel making a brilliant full-length save.

Both teams gave a good 90 minutes.

Triathlete Jodie is a double golden girl

QUIETLY-SPOKEN Oldbury triathlete Jodie Stimpson is developing a thing for bling.

She leaves the Commonwealth Games with her reputation enhanced and her medal collection swollen by two golds.

Stimpson, 25, followed up her individual success in Glasgow by joining forces with Alistair and Jonny Brownlee and Vicky Holland to dominate again at Strathclyde Park.

The mixed relay sees athletes take turns to race over a 250m swim, 6km bike and 1.6km run course and Olympic champion Alistair Brownlee started the anchor leg with a healthy advantage.

His brother, Stimpson and Holland were laughing and joking on the finish line, knowing gold was on the way.

"It's been an incredible couple of days," said Stimpson, after England finished the race 49 seconds ahead of South Africa and Australia.

"The pressure was on us because we were all on the podium for the individual event. However, I've been in these dream teams before and it's not worked out.

"Things can always go wrong but thankfully we got our tactics spot on. The Olympic distance hurts like hell but this hurts too, probably because you are racing for a team and putting everything on the line."

World No.2 Stimpson is no stranger to success, having finished as the runner-up in last year's World Championships, but double gold in Scotland will move her to another level in terms of recognition. She will now target races in Stockholm and Edmonton, though

Commonwealth Games

American Gwen Jorgensen looks to have an unassailable advantage in the World Championship rankings with two events to come.

"Things back home have exploded for me this week," added Stimpson, who credits coach Darren Smith for turning around her career after she missed London 2012.

"My area has always been a great support to me ever since I was a junior and just starting out in sport. Lots of friends and family travelled up to watch my races and having them here has made things even more special.

"I've been gobsmacked by all of the messages I've received on social media, it still takes some getting used to when people you don't know cheer for you and shout your name.

"This was my big target of the year and emotionally I need to recharge the batteries before I start thinking about the rest of the season. I'm just really excited about what I could achieve in the future now."

Big crowds lined the relay course which is popular with fans and athletes alike.

Mongan to step up a level after medal win



European Schoolboys Championships bronze medal winner, Jerry Mongan at Priory Park ABC, Dudley

JERRY MONGAN will step up to junior level next season as the World No.3 after his exploits at the AIBA European Schoolboys Championship.

The 14-year-old, from Priory Park Boxing Club in Dudley, came back from Hungary with a bronze medal earlier this month, captaining the England team.

Only the world's best at 54kg, Emin Khataev, could halt his chal-

lenge on a split decision in a nail-biting medal fight, as the Russian retained his title on a split decision.

Mongan, from Stourport, had rolled over Ireland's Michael McDonagh by a unanimous points call to set up the meeting. Despite defeat, it capped off a great season.

The tall and rangy teenager won his first national title in April's England Schoolboys, but will leave that scene behind in the coming months.

The England Junior and that European counterpart, along with next year's World Championships will be on the agenda as well as England camps, with Mongan fighting at a heavier weight.

Priory Park trainer Warren Davis said: "He's having a rest now, as he's had to maintain his weight for the past four or five months. When he's back in the gym, we will get him ready to box as an when needed."

Tenth win on the trot for super Heathens

FLYING Cradley stormed to a 57-35 home win over Coventry - arguably their most impressive win of the season so far.

Victory extended their winning run to 10 meetings.

Team boss Will Pottinger's side extended their lead at the top of the National League table.

The Heathens made a lightning start to the meeting as Paul Starke broke his own third-tier track record in heat one before reserve duo Nathan Greaves and Danny Phillips joined forces to give their side a six-point lead early on.

Mistakes from Tom Perry and Matt Williamson when well-placed briefly pegged them back, but Perry recovered superbly to strike a vital 5-1 alongside the in-form Max Clegg in heat nine.

The impeccable Starke then snuffed out a Coventry tactical ride by defeating Stefan Nielsen before he flew inside James Sarjeant to join Steve Worrall for a heat 13 maximum to all but seal all three points.

Perry and Nathan Greaves repeated the trick in the penultimate race before the formidable Starke-Worrall duo put the icing on the cake.

Baird tells Baggies aim for Europe

VERSATILE defender Chris Baird says Albion should target Europe this season.

The Northern Ireland international has been in training in California with his new teammates, after signing on a free from Fulham earlier this year.

He put in a solid performance as he played 90 minutes in a 1-0 win over Sacramento Republic FC, and is now confident for the coming season.

He said: "We should be finishing in the top 10. We've done it before, so why not again? "I did it with Fulham and we can do that here. We have some injuries at the moment so obviously we need those players back, but I think we have what it takes."

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First-half scores do the job for Glassboys

**Stratford 1
Stourbridge 2**

FIRST-HALF goals from Sean Geddes and Ben Billingham guided Stourbridge to victory.

But the home side pushed the Glassboys all the way, having an effort cleared off the line and another hit the woodwork in the second half.

Skipper Geddes netted the opener on eight minutes, racing on to a through-ball before placing his shot beyond Andy Kemp in the Stratford goal.

But the celebrations were cut short when, just six minutes later, former Walsall trainee Joe Halsall headed in a cross from the left.

Billingham scored what proved to be the winner on 27 minutes, netting with a fierce 10-yard shot following good work from Kayleden Brown and Sam Rock.

Rock then crashed a header against the Stratford bar while, at the other end, a long-range effort from Sam Adkins was turned behind a full-stretch save from Glassboys keeper Dominic Hill.

Stratford had the better of the play after the break.

Simeon Tulloch had an effort cleared off the line by defender Chris Knight before a last-gasp Callum Burgess shot clipped the outside of the post.

Wisdom eager to show skills

LOAN signing Andre Wisdom believes Albion can be the making of him after an encouraging first 90 minutes.

The versatile Liverpool defender, signed at the beginning of last week, played the full game in Saturday morning's 3-1 win over Sacramento Republic.

And as the Baggies ended their tour on a high thanks to goals from Saido Berahino, Youssouf Mulumbu and Victor Anichebe, Wisdom is looking to make a big impact in the Premier League.

He said: "I'm happy to have signed coming from Liverpool, this is a great club, and I'm just happy with the move."

"I was on loan last season at Derby and that was a really good loan, so I'm hoping I can do the same this season. Brendan Rodgers is a great manager."

Summers is ready to risk shot at title

TIPTON'S Ricky Summers will risk a title shot in September for a fight in front of the BoxNation cameras at Wolverhampton Civic Hall this Friday, writes Craig Birch.

The 6ft-plus light heavyweight, who lives in Wombourne, must box his second six-round before he can battle for a belt at Dudley's the Venue.

The 24-year-old will get that opportunity on the televised bill at the Civic, which is likely to be packed to the rafters with Brummie fight fans.

Birmingham's British and Commonwealth welterweight champion Frankie

Boxing

Gavin attempts to wrest the European crown from Italy's Leonard Bundu in the main event.

Summers goes up against Manchester's Curtis Gargano, who stepped in after scheduled opponent Mitch Mitchell pulled out for a third time.

Anything less than the 'W' on fight night and the first mark will come on the Black Country fighter's unblemished pro record after five contests.

That could put his title chances in jeopardy and leaves no room for error, but Summers is confident that won't happen.

He said: "If I got in there and was losing to novices and journeymen, I would pack boxing up the next day, but I can't see any of them troubling me."

"I was looking forward to fighting Mitchell, it hasn't happened again and you will have to ask him the reasons for that."

"All I know about this kid is that he's short, stocky and comes to fight, so I will use my height and range until I can wear him down."

"He's only had three fights, whereas I have had five and a long amateur career, boxing for England and in many national competitions."

"I made my debut at the Civic, then I knocked Joe Walsh out in a round there last year so it's a happy venue for me. The only thing that will be new is all of the cameras!"

Summers reached the semi-finals of the senior ABA competition in 2011, joining the paid ranks the following year.

For more information and tickets, call Ricky on 07427 609 377.

Legend gets big welcome

LEGENDARY speedway ace Billy Hamill was overwhelmed by the massive turnout for his return to the Black Country.

"The Bullet", who made more than 300 appearances for Cradley in the old Dudley Wood days, is in the country for the Monster Energy FIM Speedway World Cup.

The 44-year-old Californian appeared, with former Cradley team-mates and members of the USA side, at the Copthorne Hotel, Brierley Hill in front of more than 200 fans in an event supported by Motor Market of Cradley Heath.

And the 1996 world champion said: "I can't believe that, here I am, 24 years after I first rode for Cradley Heath before they closed down, here I am in this venue with hundreds of supporters, it's pretty special."

"There were so many people I hadn't seen for years and it was pretty special to have my former manager Colin Pratt and my old team-mates here too. I can't thank everyone enough for making this happen." The Brierley Hill event was hosted by Nigel Pearson, who led Hamill through his memories of the Heathens.

Wulfs win winds up the friendlies

AFC WULFRUNIANS completed their pre-season schedule with a 2-1 victory at home to United Counties League Premier Division side AFC Rushden & Diamonds.

Nathan Rose-Laing and Scott Stevenson gave Wulfs a 2-0 half-time lead before Matt Pinder pulled a goal back for Diamonds.

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford, Thursday, July 31

TIPTON DISPLAY THEIR FOUR-CE

Dudley Town 1 Tipton Town 4

TIPTON Town manager Nick Hawkins witnessed his side return to winning ways.

Hawkins saw his side grab a 4-1 victory over West Midlands Premier league side Dudley Town at the Dell stadium. Hawkins made five changes to the starting line up, following the midweek 1-0 away defeat against Black Country Rangers.

It took just eight minutes for Tipton to break the deadlock with Ben Hadley toe-poking from close range following a Kieran Whalin free kick.

The lead was then doubled on the first quarter, when Danny Carrey - Bertram claimed his first goal of the season, and he should have celebrated his second of the game shortly after when, with just James Scarett to beat saw his effect just go wide of the far post.

Executed

From the goal kick, Dudley immediately reacted and a neat four man move found Dudley's Christian Ekwel-nor who executed a fine volley from close range only to be denied by the post with Cox soundly beaten.

Tipton made the game as good as safe on 33 minutes when James "Smudge" Smith headed home from close range.

Dudley's Lee Smith pulled a goal back for the home side four minutes later as Tipton went into the break with a two goal cushion.

Despite the early 1pm kick off, the warm weather

Football

made it hard work for both teams during the second half as Dudley and Tipton brought in several substitutions.

Ben Cheate, Josh March, and Mark Ganderton of none of who had made the starting eleven against Black Country on Thursday night were called up to replace Nick Hawkins, Anthony Bevas and Sam Hesson who enjoyed his full game. George Durrell replaced Ben Hadley on the hour.

Kieran Whalin made it 4 - 1 from the penalty spot on 78 minutes.

Dudley Town: Scarett, Marsh, Reeves, Smith, Jordan, Walker, Arnold, Albert, Ekwel-nor, Smith, Jones.

Tipton Town: Cox, Richardson, Coulton, Hawkins (Cheate 47), Richards, Smith, Whalin, Hesson (Ganderton 60), DCB, Hadley (Durrell 62), Bevas (March 46)

Tipton play their final pre-season friendly at Wolverhampton Casuals.

On Saturday, Tipton open their League programme away to Loughborough University.

Heroine's welcome home for medals winner Jodie



Jodie Simpson celebrating with her father Ian and mother Jude back at home in Oldbury

COMMONWEALTH Games golden girl Jodie Stimpson has been celebrating her double Glasgow glory at home in Oldbury after the Black Country medal rush continued.

Triathlete Stimpson returned home to a heroine's welcome at the weekend after adding mixed relay gold to her individual triumph.

And the medals kept coming as Halesowen cyclists Helen Scott and Jess Varnish both took to the podium

for the second time at Glasgow 2014. Stimpson's relatives decorated her family home in Oldbury as she returned to spend a week with mum Jude and dad Ian before returning to training.

She said: "I couldn't believe I'd won gold at the time and I still can't now. Even after I'd crossed the finishing line it didn't sink in that I'd done it. It was only when I looked over and saw my family going mad

that I realised. I didn't think I'd get a gold."

Friends Scott and Varnish both launched their careers at Halesowen Cycling Club. Scott partnered para-cyclist Sophie Thornhill to gold in the 1km time trial tandem.

Scott, the pilot for visually-impaired Thornhill, revealed the prospect of topping another podium kept them going through agony.

● Golden - Page 43

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